

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

_____)	
Application of)	
)	
AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.)	Docket OST-2003-14447
)	
under 49 U.S.C. 40109 for an exemption)	
(Los Angeles-Guadalajara seasonal service))	
_____)	

ANSWER OF ALASKA AIRLINES, INC.

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DATED: February 19, 2003

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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Application of)	
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AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.)	Docket OST-2003-14447
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under 49 U.S.C. 40109 for an exemption)	
(Los Angeles-Guadalajara seasonal service))	
_____)	

ANSWER OF ALASKA AIRLINES, INC.

Alaska Airlines, Inc. ("Alaska") hereby answers in opposition to the application submitted by American Airlines, Inc. ("American") on February 4, 2003, seeking an exemption permitting American to operate scheduled seasonal service between Los Angeles, California, and Guadalajara, Mexico.

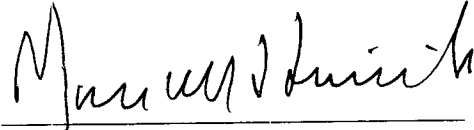
Alaska is today submitting a competing application requesting an exemption permitting Alaska to operate year round scheduled service between Los Angeles and Guadalajara. Approval of Alaska's application will increase substantially U.S. carrier competition on the route while ensuring the generation of maximum consumer benefits.

Because of existing bilateral limitations, the competing applications of Alaska and American are mutually exclusive. Under the principles established by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Ashbacker Radio Corp. v. FCC*, the Department is required to conduct a carrier selection

Answer of Alaska Airlines, Inc.
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proceeding to choose the applicant whose proposal will generate the maximum public benefits. Alaska will demonstrate in that proceeding the superiority of its application and why its proposal should be selected over American's proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



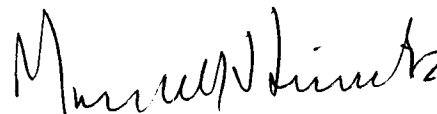
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that one copy of the foregoing Answer of Alaska Airlines, Inc. has this day been served on each of the following individuals via telecopier or first class mail, postage prepaid.



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DATED: February 19, 2003

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