



**SHARPE JAMES**  
MAYOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
07102

September 23, 2002

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Secretary of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Room 10200  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta:

It is a great pleasure to write in support of the Continental-Delta-Northwest Marketing Agreement, that has been signed by the three airlines and submitted to you for review.

As you know, the airline industry has sustained unprecedented losses this year. This industry is extremely important to our city's economy. Newark Liberty International Airport is the busiest in the New York region. The recent announcements of service and employment reductions by airlines will have a major impact on our city's economic future.

Under the Agreement, passengers will benefit by improved travel options and expanded frequent flyer benefits. Carriers will benefit by expanding their networks through codesharing. It should be noted that all of this would occur without anti-trust concerns. The three airlines will remain separate, independent competitors with each other and with other airlines. The three airlines will independently price, schedule, set capacity and make yield management decisions.

The James administration believes that proposed Marketing Agreement between Continental, Delta, and Northwest is an opportunity for each of the three airlines to expand their networks and provide Newark Liberty International Airport and its millions of passengers with more service options. This will mean more competition through the creation of three stable competitors with more stable route networks. We are sure the Department agrees that the benefits of the Marketing Agreement are great.

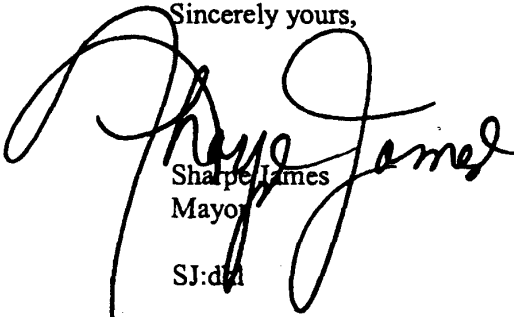
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The economic challenges currently facing every major airline in the United States are significant. Given the importance of Newark Liberty International Airport to our city and region, I urge you to complete an expedited review and allow expedited implementation of this Marketing Agreement. It will be a tremendous benefit for Newark Liberty International Airport, its passengers, airlines, and their employees.

Thank you for your support in this as in so many other matters of mutual concern and interest. We are grateful to you for your continuing support of America's "Destination City."

All the best!

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Sharpe". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Sharpe, James  
Mayor

SJ:dm

Cc: Monica Slater Stokes, State and Civic Affairs, Continental Airlines