



September 20, 2002

Mr. Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590

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President

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The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P.

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Turner Collie & Braden Inc.

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I write on behalf to the North Houston Association to express support for the Continental-Delta-Northwest Marketing Agreement, which is now under review by your Department.

The airline industry, which has recently sustained unprecedented losses, is extremely important to our regional economy. The recent announcements of service and employment reductions by certain carriers give us tremendous concern for our economic future. Following many months of bad news for the airline industry, we were pleased to learn about the Marketing Agreement. We regard the Marketing Agreement as an important step toward providing a degree of stability for consumers and carriers and toward renewing hope that our airport will continue to be the economic engine for our region.

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

Our community views the proposed Marketing Agreement between Continental, Delta and Northwest as an opportunity for each of the three to expand their networks and provide our community 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.

The economic challenges currently facing every major airline in the U.S. are significant; I urge you to complete an expedited review and allow expedited implementation of this Marketing Agreement as it will be tremendous benefit for consumers, communities, airlines and their employees.

Sincerely,

Senator Jon Lindsay
President