

November 15, 2002

The Honorable Norman Mineta  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I am writing you to express our support for the recently announced airline marketing agreement between Northwest, Continental and Delta. That cooperative agreement will produce significant benefits for the traveling public by expanding consumer choice and enhancing competition. It is especially welcome news for the North Dakota business and leisure travelers.

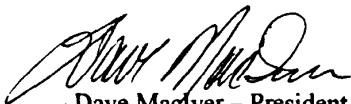
North Dakota business and leisure travelers often have limited travel convenience to many destinations from our state. Linking the current Northwest/Continental service in North Dakota to Delta's network will make it easier to travel to the southeastern and western U.S. where Delta's network is particularly strong. Delta does not serve any North Dakota airport today. Under the Marketing Agreement, North Dakota consumers will gain new online access to Delta's entire network. Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Bismarck will each gain competitive online service and new online access to Delta's network.

The new three-carrier agreement will build upon the demonstrated benefits of the Northwest/Continental relationship. Through codesharing and frequent flyer and lounge program coordination, the airlines will be able to effectively extend their networks and offer consumers convenient online service to a broad array of destinations.

I understand these benefits can be achieved with no risks to service levels, employment or competition. Northwest and Continental have continued to compete aggressively on both fares and service. There have been numerous occasions when one of the carriers has foiled a price increase published by the other, and each carrier has entered and expanded service in markets historically important to the other.

I believe the addition of Delta to the Northwest and Continental networks will produce consumer and economic benefits while preserving current competition, and ask you to support the proposed marketing agreement.

Sincerely,



Dave Magliver - President  
Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce

