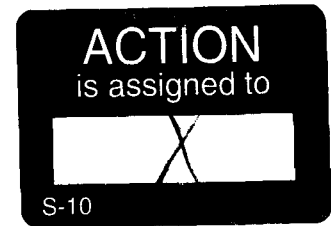




DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS
2007 AUG 13 P 12:02



The Honorable Mary Peters
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

OST-2007-28644-111

27 July 2007

Dear Madame Secretary:

International air services and access to global markets are very important to Ithaca and the Tompkins County region. We understand that Northwest has applied for expansion of the Northwest/KLM antitrust immunized (ATI) alliance to include additional SkyTeam transatlantic partners. The Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport supports this application and Northwest's efforts to improve and expand its transatlantic network.

As explained in Northwest's application, a more integrated SkyTeam alliance offers substantial advantages to consumers including improved flight schedules, reduced travel times, new service and lower fares. We believe it is very important that the Department of Transportation approve this application.

All the pieces are in place to support prompt and favorable action on this request by DOT. Northwest and its partners have presented a transatlantic joint venture agreement, and ATI is necessary for them to proceed with their plans. The new U.S.-EU agreement removes all regulatory barriers to transatlantic competition, making an already vibrant market even more competitive. We welcome the enhanced transatlantic service and competition Northwest and its SkyTeam partners would create with their expanded alliance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Nicholas, A.A.E.
Airport Director

cc: Docket OST-07-28644