



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**JUN 27 2008**

The Honorable Mark Ciommo  
Boston City Council  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Councilor Ciommo:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, regarding the merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines. The Secretary asked me to respond on her behalf.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Justice (Justice) has the lead role in reviewing proposed airline mergers, due to its primary jurisdiction over the antitrust laws. When a merger transaction is filed, the Department of Transportation (Department) typically works with Justice by providing advice and analysis on airline competition issues. This practice is consistent with Congress' determination that the deregulated airline industry should generally be subject to the same application of the antitrust laws as other unregulated industries.

I can assure you that the Department will carefully and thoroughly review the Delta-Northwest merger proposal. The Department is committed to ensuring an environment that promotes competition and economic development, as well as allows the airline industry to adapt to rapidly changing economic conditions.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. If I can provide further information or assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Reynolds  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Aviation and International Affairs

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**MARK CIOMMO  
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 9**

Mary E. Peters  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

June 12, 2008

Dear Secretary Peters:

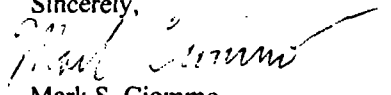
I am writing to urge your approval of the proposed merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines. This merger has the potential to improve Massachusetts' economy by increasing job security, tourism activity and travel options for consumers.

As a Boston city councilor concerned about economic development and job growth in Boston and our state, I believe this transaction holds great promise. In an industry that lost more than 150,000 jobs and over \$29 billion since 2001, airline companies can either do things the same way or adapt to change.

Therefore, I believe the merger will build a more resilient carrier, one that is better positioned to withstand turbulent oil prices and economic downturns. Since there is little overlap in current route networks between the two, the combination of Delta and Northwest will provide better worldwide connections throughout the Northeast, resulting in expanded potential for tourism and job growth.

It is important to note that the merger will create a more resilient business model that will be better able to withstand a slow economy. This type of financial strength is needed in a struggling airline sector, especially given the alarming cost of fuel.

Delta's stability is vital to the economic development and growth of New England. As we all watch fuel prices spike, this merger will save the jobs that other airlines are eliminating. The sooner this partnership is approved, the sooner Boston can share in the benefits.

Sincerely,  
  
Mark S. Ciommo  
Boston City Councilor, District 9

CC: Senator John F. Kerry  
Congressman Michael Capuano MA-8<sup>th</sup>

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