



District 142

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Weekly Update



The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

Friday, May 9, 2008

Machinists Union Calls for Airline Re-Regulation – The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) this week urged



MERGER WATCH

lawmakers to resist appeals to approve additional airline consolidation, calling instead for measured re-regulation of fares and capacity as the only way to ensure safe and reliable air transportation in the United States. “Limited re-regulation is the only long-term solution for an industry that is continually seeking government assistance,” said IAM

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the state of the airline industry. “This industry is simply unable to turn away from pricing its product below the cost of providing it, further perpetuating the chaotic spiral that brings us here today.” The IAM’s complete testimony is available at www.goiam.org/mergers. “Airlines today compete by cutting standards, eliminating services and reducing ticket prices to the bone, which makes a profitable industry impossible,” said Roach. “The Government Accountability Office estimates that median ticket prices have dropped nearly 40 percent since 1980, while the costs of aircraft, airport leases and fuel have increased dramatically.” “When an industry essential to the national economy can no longer function, it is the responsibility of elected representatives to step in and provide the necessary guidance and stability,” said Roach.

ExpressJet – Since the revelation that ExpressJet has rejected an offer to be purchased by SkyWest, the Machinists Union has not received any further official information from the carrier. The IAM has fought to protect jobs by opposing any unnecessary merger and also by testifying before the U.S. Congress and Senate numerous times on the ills of these proposed mergers. We are committed to ensuring that no IAM member is adversely affected as a result of any merger or consolidation, even if it means that the merger ultimately fails.

Just Say No! To Airline Mergers – The Machinists Union strongly opposes mergers among the major airlines for the following reasons: airline hubs will be eliminated; service frequency will be reduced; competition will be diminished; jobs will be lost; customer service will deteriorate; and pension obligations will be jeopardized; and fuel prices will remain unaffected by a merger. The IAM is part of a coalition of consumer advocates, political leaders and passenger rights groups who oppose the mega-mergers, but we need your help. All IAM members are asked to contact their elected representatives and urge their opposition for airline mergers that will only benefit airline executives and bankers.

Link to contact representatives: <http://capwiz.com/iamaw/issues/alert/?alertid=11231996>

Airline CEO Promises Scorned at Senate Hearing – Chief executives from Northwest Airlines and Delta Airlines got a frosty reception this week at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing to examine the state of the airline industry and the potential impact of a merger between Delta and Northwest Airlines.



After senators grilled Northwest and Delta CEO's about the proposed merger of their airlines, IAM Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. testified at the Senate Commerce Committee hearing and called on Congress to oppose further consolidation.

the hearing room, which was packed with airline employees who have heard such promises from airline executives before. As if on cue, Anderson's pledge was followed by a carefully worded warning from Northwest CEO Doug Steenland, who said that unseen market pressures and the rising price of oil could influence any commitments regarding jobs. "The only thing we know is the world we see today," said Steenland. "In terms of making commitments, we have to recognize there are variables outside our control." The hearing room came alive as Senators on the committee rolled their eyes and workers in the audience appeared to choke on the wiggly words they had just heard. "I've been in this industry for 33 years and I've heard a lot of promises," declared IAM Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "The promises that are made here today will mean nothing tomorrow. It's time we fix the industry's problem instead of short-term fixes that just provide millions of dollars for the people at the top of these airlines." Roach urged committee members to resist appeals to sanction additional airline consolidation, calling instead for measured re-regulation of fares and capacity as the only way to ensure safe and reliable air transportation in the United States. "This industry is simply unable to turn away from pricing its product below the cost of providing it, further perpetuating the chaotic spiral that brings us here today," said Roach.

The IAM's complete testimony is available at: www.goiam.org/mergers.

Crewmember Self-Defense Training – Following meetings between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Machinists Union, The TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service are now offering Crew Member Self-Defense Training (CMSDT) in the Houston, TX and Newark, NJ areas. The techniques presented in this course are easy to perform and effective when applied correctly – something that is critically important when you must respond quickly. **Regardless of your physical size or fitness level, anyone can learn and execute these defense techniques quickly, efficiently, and effectively.** Participation is voluntary, but your Union representatives encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity! We are pleased to advise you that the TSA has reported a marked increase in participation in the self defense training classes and therefore they have added additional training dates for May and June in the Houston area. Spread the word with your co-workers and challenge them in joining you to attend this training course. In the Newark area - Essex County College Police Academy 250 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, May 13, 19, 28 Contact: Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352 Email: miscia@essex.edu or Mary Beam (973) 877-4350 Email: beam@essex.edu and in the Houston area – Lone Star College - North Harris 10041 Regal Row, Suite 170 Houston, TX 77040, June 19, 20 - Contact: Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598 Email: Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu.

We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting. Each Local Lodge must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

Newark: Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel (formerly Doubletree)

Houston: Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.

Cleveland: Thursday, June 12, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.