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# Utah State Legislature

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December 4, 2006

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales  
Office of the Attorney General  
Robert F. Kennedy Building  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC, 20530-2000

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

As Utah's legislative leadership, we write to express concern that any merger efforts by US Airways related to Delta Air Lines be evaluated by the Department of Justice with a very meticulous review. Although we understand that merger discussions are at the earliest of stages, it is important that key governmental bodies remain alert to ensure that a healthy, competitive airline market exists within each of the regions of the country.

In the Western Region in which Utah plays a central role, a possible merger of Delta Air Lines with US Airways, which operates two hubs within 500 miles of Salt Lake City, Utah, raises potential risks that could harm not only Utah's airline industry but also the economy of the West as a whole. The close proximity of these hubs could result in a loss or diminution of hub status in Salt Lake City, which has competed successfully for decades with other Western hubs as a crossroads for regional and national air transportation. Such a loss or diminution could manifest itself in Utah and the surrounding region in the following ways:

- reduction in number of flights
- reduction in number of routes served nonstop
- reduction in number of airline choices in regional markets
- loss of opportunities for expanded service, especially in intercontinental markets
- reduction of convenience to business travelers, tourists, and visitors, which are vital to the economies of the West

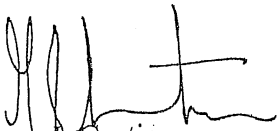
These and other potential risks could result in significant anti-competitive consequences such as higher prices, less available air travel, and less consumer choice into and out of Utah and throughout the West. As Utah hopes to expand its already thriving international trade, tourism, convention, and ski industries, our state carefully looks to, and defends the health of its key markets. We are also asking our Utah Attorney General to carefully monitor and when necessary take action to ensure that any proposed merger would support the strong, competitive airline market Utah currently enjoys.

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With this background in mind, we as Utah's legislative leadership again strongly urge the Department of Justice to review with great care the potential impacts of any merger of US Airways and Delta Air Lines on all markets in the nation and the important competitive and economic consequences to the communities where these airlines serve. If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact us, as we want to ensure an open and thorough examination of the issues.

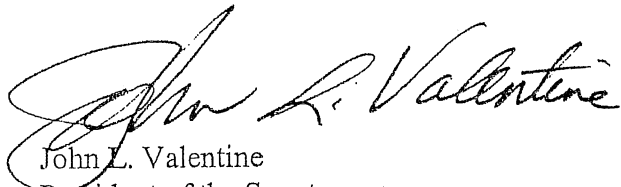
Sincerely,



Greg Curtis  
Speaker of the House of Representatives



Ralph Becker  
House Minority Leader



John L. Valentine  
President of the Senate



Mike Dmitrich  
Senate Minority Leader

CC Senator Robert F. Bennett  
Senator Orrin G. Hatch  
Representative Rob Bishop  
Representative Chris Cannon  
Representative Jim Matheson  
Mark Shurtleff, Utah Attorney General