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March 3, 2008

Dear Senator/Congressman:

You may have recently received form letters from Delta retirees expressing their concerns about a potential merger between Delta and another carrier. These letters ask you to assist the retirees in securing a commitment from Delta management to preserve their retirement benefits if there is a merger involving Delta in the future, and they make certain allegations about Delta's actions in the past. The letters were drafted by the leadership of the DALRC, an organization of Delta retirees. We thought it would be helpful to hear directly from us in response to their communications.

- During our bankruptcy, Delta worked hard in cooperation with both active and retired employees and members of Congress to support passage of legislation that made it possible for us to maintain the non-pilot pension plan – something that neither United nor US Airways attempted. At Delta, **no non-pilot retiree lost any of his or her earned qualified pension benefits, and Delta never diverted any money from that plan for any Delta purpose.**
- Now that the Pension Protection Act is in place, which provides Delta an affordable funding stream to get our Plan back to top financial health, Delta has been steadily funding the Plan since before we emerged from bankruptcy. We put in \$50 million more than required in 2007, and we even began putting our regular contributions in earlier than required – monthly rather than at the quarter's end – so that it can be earning returns for its participants earlier.
- It is a fact that a merger does not provide any opportunity for the pension plan to be terminated. We would have to enter bankruptcy again for that possibility to occur. A recent memo from Delta's CEO and President stressed that maintaining the pension plan of active employees and retirees is a guiding principle that must be met if Delta is to complete a consolidation transaction.
- It is true that Delta's retirees and survivors did make sacrifices during our bankruptcy – just as did active employees and every other Delta stakeholder. Pilot retirees suffered pension losses and many retirees and survivors had medical benefits reduced. These sacrifices were an unfortunate, but absolutely necessary and a very much appreciated, part of the painful restructuring Delta stakeholders had to endure. As part of the bankruptcy process, Delta paid claims of more than \$1 billion to these retirees and survivors to help compensate them for these sacrifices.
- Delta did **not** change retiree life insurance, disability payments or monthly survivor income payments during the bankruptcy - the most financially bleak period in our history. Those benefits continue to be paid as they were prior to the bankruptcy. A merger would provide no reason for Delta to change our stripes suddenly and begin attacking these very important benefits.
- In the case of medical benefits, we worked very closely with the official retiree committees established by the bankruptcy court and reached mutual agreements with each of those committees regarding the changes that had to be made to achieve needed savings in these areas. Substantial benefits continue to be paid to retirees under these agreements - including the "over 65" medical subsidy and other Company subsidized medical and dental benefits - and those agreements cannot be modified without the approval of the bankruptcy court. That is true whether or not we merge with another carrier.

In short, we respectfully disagree with the DALRC's view that a merger poses a threat to retirees' benefits or that Delta has "filled financial holes" with funds taken from retirees' benefits. As we have with all other stakeholders through the process of our restructuring, we have treated retirees with dignity and respect. While a merger poses no risk that we can see for retirees, as we go forward we will take the same approach and continue to consider issues important to retirees, whether or not consolidation occurs. Thank you for taking the time to hear from us directly, and for your efforts to pass needed pension reform legislation that helped make it possible for us to preserve our plan.

Sincerely,