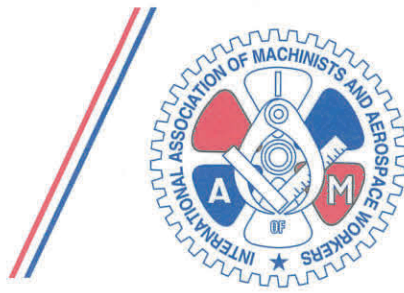


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

September 21, 2016

Renata B. Hesse
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing this letter to express The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers' (IAM) support for the merger between Alaska Airlines and Virgin America. We feel this merger will be beneficial for both the consumer and our IAM members. This merger will help Alaska Airlines compete with the other major airlines and, in turn, help secure our members' future.

The joining of these airlines brings together two airlines that will take the flying experience of its passengers to new levels. Both of these airlines are known for being innovative and consumer-friendly. Right now both airlines are predominantly West Coast carriers, but by approving this deal it will enable Alaska Airlines to compete nationally. This potential growth will afford its employees future jobs and a solid future for our members.

IAM feels this deal, which brings together two groups of hardworking people with minimal overlap of their networks, will provide a secure and healthy future for our members. We feel this merger will help Alaska Airlines and our members find new, exciting ways to provide its passengers with the best flying experience possible.

In conclusion, IAM respectfully asks the Antitrust Division to complete its investigation of this merger and approve the deal, so that the significant benefits to all parties mentioned above can be fulfilled.

Sincerely,

Sito Pantoja
General Vice President - Transportation
International Association of Machinists &
Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO