

DELTA + NORTHWEST =

ZERO for Retired Delta Pilots

An Open Letter to the Department of Justice, Congress, Our Passengers, and Friends,

The Delta Pilots' Pension Preservation Organization (DP3), on behalf of retired Delta pilots, would like to address the upcoming merger request between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines.

The proposed acquisition of Northwest by Delta means that Delta is assuming the pension obligations of over 30,000 Northwest employees, including Northwest pilots and Northwest retired pilots. In all approximately 79,000 employees would be covered by pension obligations that become the responsibility of the merged company known as Delta Air Lines. **The only employees or retirees not covered by their earned benefits are the retired Delta pilots.** Over 5,500 retired Delta pilots had their pensions turned over to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation during bankruptcy proceedings. Of that number approximately 3,000 retirees endured severe cuts in the amount of their earned benefits. In some cases the payments retirees were previously receiving have been reduced to zero.

It is the position of DP3 that as the Department of Justice reviews the advantages and disadvantages of this merger they consider requiring Delta to restore the earned benefits of the retired Delta pilots. Even with such a restoration of the qualified plan many pilots would still not receive their full earned pension, unlike all the other employees and retirees. Delta's President and Chief Financial Officer, Ed Bastian has stated:

"Delta now believes the merger will produce \$2 billion in savings and benefits, up from an original estimate of \$1.2 billion, and will cost about \$600 million, down from the \$1 billion projected earlier. The evaluation suggests the combined company could gain back \$500 million in 2009 and another \$500 million to \$600 million annually until 2012."

The merged airline, to be known as Delta Air Lines, has committed to fly to 140 communities and 125 million passengers annually. Are those commitments any stronger than those made to retired pilots? If Delta has the resources to make these commitments and assume the responsibility for an additional 30,000 Northwest employees then surely they can restore the qualified benefits to over 3,000 retired Delta pilots who gave many years of service to Delta Air Lines.

DP3 has sent a letter to Delta CEO Richard Anderson requesting that Delta Air Lines utilize this unique opportunity to demonstrate to the Department of Justice, the merged employees, and to their customers that they value the service and dedication of their retired pilots. Surely the largest airline in the world will not forget this small group of retirees. Simple fairness and equity call for serious consideration of such an action in the context of this merger with the financial benefits it promises to everyone but the retired Delta pilots.



Delta Pilots' Pension Preservation Organization

Please note: The preceding open letter was published Thursday, September 4, 2008 in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution Newspaper.

We urge everyone to contact the DOJ [Citizen Complaint Center <antitrust.complaints@usdoj.gov>], your Congressional Representatives, and the members of both the Delta and NWA boards, encouraging them all to seriously consider this proposal to restore fairness and equity to this merger process.