



Delta Air Lines, Inc.  
Post Office Box 20706  
Atlanta, Georgia 30320-6001

March 14, 2005

Distribution:   The Honorable Michael B. Enzi                               The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
                  The Honorable Charles E. Grassley                       The Honorable Max Baucus  
                  The Honorable John A. Boehner                           The Honorable George Miller  
                  The Honorable Charles B. Rangel                         The Honorable William M. Thomas

Dear Senator/Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ :

As Congress prepares to address the pension funding crisis that is plaguing the airline industry, we want to express our support for responsible, pragmatic solutions that preserve employees' earned retirement benefits while making it possible for airlines to meet their defined benefit pension obligations, rather than shifting these liabilities to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

Delta Air Lines, its employees and retirees, and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) are unified in a shared belief that companies should endeavor to do everything they can within the bounds of financial feasibility to provide employees and retirees with already earned retirement benefits. It is no surprise, then, that we want to avoid a termination of Delta's plans, as has occurred at some competitors. To that end, we have sacrificed and are working hard together to chart a different course – one that transforms Delta, preserves jobs and retirement security, and supports a viable future for our airline and the many constituencies that depend on us.

Delta recognizes its pension obligations and is working to meet them. However, the current law (as well as the Administration's proposal) requires that deficit reduction contribution obligations be met within such an unreasonably short time period as to make them unaffordable. While funding estimates beyond 2005 will fluctuate and are difficult to predict, we expect significant increases that threaten our ongoing efforts to restructure Delta as a viable airline.

We stand ready to work with you to examine responsible and sustainable solutions to the airline industry's pension crisis that will protect the airlines, their employees, the government and our national economy. Specifically, we support a legislative transition rule that builds on the relief Congress provided last year. Such legislation would allow Delta and other airlines to honor and fund benefits employees already have earned under our traditional defined benefit pension plan based on development of a realistic, extended funding schedule. This reform also would limit additional defined benefit plan liabilities by freezing defined benefit pension benefit levels. The new funding schedule would be developed using stable, long-term assumptions. We also recognize the need to impose strict requirements on airlines that choose this approach as well as safeguards to ensure that the PBGC's benefit liabilities are not increased.

The two-year pension payment reprieve Congress provided in 2004 made an important contribution to a vital industry that has long fueled our country's economy. As a leader shaping the retirement outcomes for thousands of airline employees and the companies they rely on for their jobs and benefits, we want to thank you for your active consideration of a more permanent solution to the airline pension funding crisis and your willingness to consider a special rule for the industry. Given that airline-related jobs, retirement benefits, and the health of our nation's transportation and federal defined benefit pension systems are at stake, swift action is imperative. We greatly appreciate your past leadership, and look forward to working with you on such an approach.

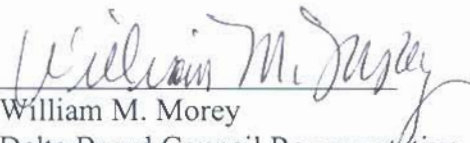
Sincerely,



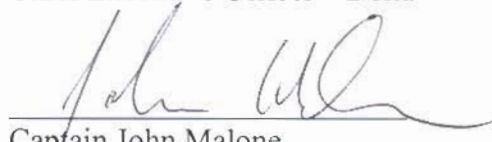
Captain Duane Woerth  
President – Air Line Pilot's Association



Gerald Grinstein  
Chief Executive Officer – Delta



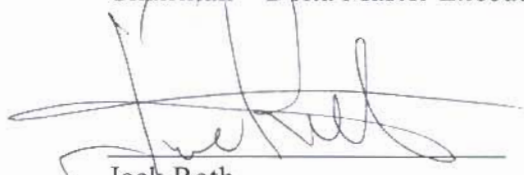
William M. Morey  
Delta Board Council Representative  
Reservation Sales & City Ticket Offices



Captain John Malone  
Chairman – Delta Master Executive Council



Christopher Muise  
Delta Board Council Representative  
Supervisory & Administrative



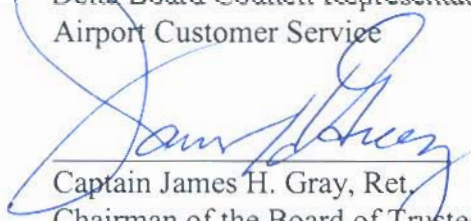
Jack Roth  
Delta Board Council Representative  
Technical Operations



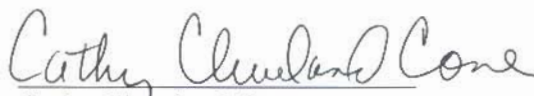
Larry Stites  
Delta Board Council Representative  
Airport Customer Service



Dale C. Williams  
Delta Board Council Representative  
In-Flight Service



Captain James H. Gray, Ret.  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
DP3 (Delta Pilot Retirees)



Cathy Cleveland Cone  
Chairman  
DALRC (Delta Non-Pilot Retirees)