



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

March 14, 2007

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The Honorable Jacques Barrot
Vice-President of the European Commission
Commissioner for Transport European Commission
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1040 Brussels, Belgium

SENT VIA FACSIMILIE: Fax: +32 2 22981597

Dear Commissioner Barrot:

We are writing to encourage the European Union Council of Ministers of Transport to approve the first stage, comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (Agreement).

As you know, this historic Agreement would replace the existing and outdated bilateral agreements between the United States and individual Member States of the European Union. If approved, this constitutes the most significant transatlantic accord in aviation history.

Communities, both in Europe and the United States, will greatly benefit from the Agreement which will result in huge economic opportunities and create countless jobs. Passengers will also benefit from increased competition through greater choice and lower fares.

The proposed Air Transport Agreement will also bring incredible benefits to the European Union (EU) and its Member States, as well as the United States (US). These benefits include:

- New franchising provisions that will allow the development of 'brand equity' across borders within the bounds of the existing law.
- Frequent flyer program participation co-existing in parallel with franchising and code-share agreements.
- Open Skies partners will be allowed to have up to 49.9% of total equity, but no more than 25% voting control, and, in some circumstances, would be permitted total beneficial ownership to exceed 50%.

The Honorable Jacques Barrot

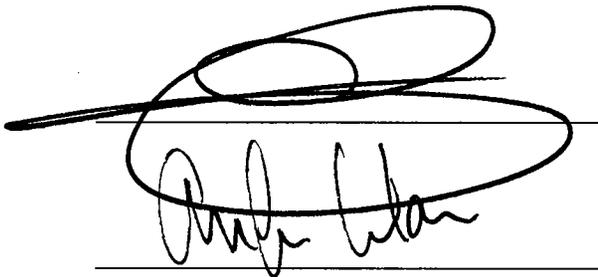
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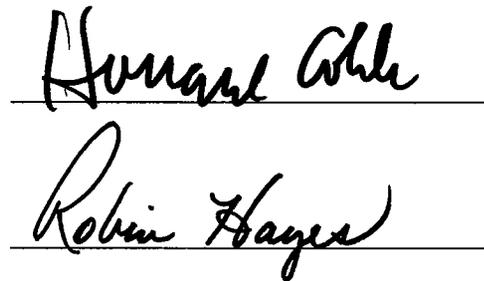
- Assurance that investments of EU nationals will receive at least as favorable consideration as investments by Open-Skies partners.
- Limited additional rights for EU carriers to provide nonmilitary US government transportation.
- Language to facilitate second stage negotiations to address issues beyond Open Skies.

We encourage the EU Council of Ministers of Transport to approve this fair, balanced, and historic Air Transport Agreement.

Sincerely,



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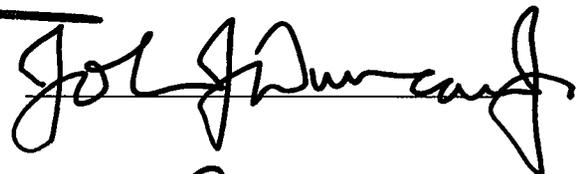
Handwritten signature of Joe Wilson on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Mary Fallin on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Ken Calvert on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Joe Durkin on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Ken Calvert on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Roy Blunt on a horizontal line.

Phil English

Wayne T. Gilbert

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Thomas Price

Paul Loren

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V...