



Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Dear Member of Congress,

Airline deregulation has cost consumers and employees more than it has gained them, while pushing an industry to the brink, bankrupting almost all carriers, a new report by Demos, *Flying Blind: Airline Deregulation Reconsidered*, reveals. The study also raises concerns about diminished oversight of safety since passage of the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978.

Flying Blind records a 30-year deregulatory failure that ultimately has punished all Americans – consumers, workers and companies, all victims of reckless deregulation of financial markets.

We have enclosed a copy of the report for your review, along with an executive summary of its findings. We strongly support its key recommendation that “the White House and the Department of Transportation take the lead in creating a task force to examine the industry’s problems and propose solutions.”

The staggering job losses and diminished earning power of airline industry employees that deregulation induced well before the 9/11 tragedy, and the continuing downward pressure it is exerting on wages and benefits bear testimony to its failure as public policy. As the report rightly concludes, “America needs an airline industry that can do right by its owners and workers as well as its passengers.”

The original architects of deregulation “exulted in pointing out the deficiencies of the old regulatory regime,” as the report notes, “but were oddly blind to the hazards of the free-for-all environment they created in its place.”

Those hazards are now widely apparent and are thoroughly documented in *Flying Blind*. We urge you to support a full review of deregulation, including the appointment of a task force by the Obama administration, and to consider the legislative steps necessary to rectify the damage it continues to do to airline employees, consumers and the corporations serving the industry.

Sincerely,

Pat Friend, President
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

Laura Glading, President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants