



**American Airlines System Presidents Council
Air Transport Division Locals, 501 – 590
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO**

1791 Hurstview Drive, Hurst, Texas 76064 - 817 282 2544 - FAX 817 282 1906

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Via E-mail

April 27, 2006

Mr. Roger Tauss
Vice President and Legislative Director
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
10 G Street NE, Suite 420
Washington, D.C. 20002-6102

Re: Legislative Issues

Dear Brother Tauss:

The American Airlines System Presidents Council met yesterday to discuss the pension legislation that is pending in Conference Committee. The discussion centered on the need for our members and retirees to be well informed on the issues and to be aware of the status of the pending legislation, so that our collective efforts will affect the desired outcome. We are committed to seeing this through to a successful conclusion.

I want thank you for your advise on the wording of the letters we have sent to the hill. Thus far, we have sent letters to all the Senate and House Conferees as well as the Leadership of both bodies. Our Locals have responded by urging their Constituents to phone in their concerns as well as write letters to their Senators and Representatives.

In order that the Council's Legislative Committee stays abreast of developments in the legislative environment, it is the unanimous opinion of the Council that our Committee be included in your weekly legislative conference call. It is the Council's desire that I be allowed to participate in the conference call on their behalf, as Legislative Committee Chairman. We intend to address the specific issues that are of concern to our Members and Retirees in the legislative arena. Your help with this will be most appreciated.

Based on the Council's discussion yesterday, I am requesting that your office send our Legislative Committee any information you can that would pertain to legislative matters of concern to the Council's Constituents. We will continue to rely upon your expertise in the formulation of effective communication directed toward our Representatives and Senators. We appreciate your contribution in these efforts and for your support of ours!

On behalf of the American Airlines System Presidents Council; Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Curtis R. Gentry

Legislative Committee Chairman
President, TWU Local 541

**LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

- Mike Chiofalo NYC
- Gordon Clark MCI
- Alex Garcia MIA
- Curtis Gentry GSW
- Steve Gilboy ORD
- Keith Stewart DFW



C: Jim Little, Gary Yingst, John Conley, AA System Council Members



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URGENT

March 28, 2006

AA System Presidents Council
Locals 501-590

Re: Pension Legislation

Dear Brothers,

I hope you have had an opportunity to read the letters that have been sent out to key members of the Senate and House. **The House version does not include airline specific language that provides for on-going employee pension plans.** It is essential that the Senate language providing for American Airlines and others with on-going employee pension plans be included in the final bill coming out of conference. It is likely that this legislation will be acted on during the next couple of weeks. Therefore, it is **urgent** that members of both the House and Senate hear from our members.

Please get this message out to your members. We can have an impact by making a call to our Senators and Congressional Representatives. Encourage them to use this format:

Call as soon as possible and when you do share the following in your own words:

My name is _____, and I live in _____.

1. I am an employee/retiree of American Airlines.
2. Encourage your Senator/Representative to contact their colleagues working on the pension reform bill to ensure that the airline provision of the Senate bill be included in the final version.
3. This is of the highest urgency to me personally, my fellow members, and my company.
4. American Airlines continues to meet the commitments made to its employees by prudently maintaining the highest level of pension funding in the industry.
5. Please help protect the retirements of American's employees by contacting your colleagues working on the pension reform today.
6. Your support is greatly appreciated!
7. Thanks for your time.

The telephone numbers of the Senators and Representative can be obtained by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. (Contact both Senators and your Representative)

Your attention to this matter is vital to the interests of our members and retirees!

Curtis R. Gentry

Curtis R. Gentry
Legislative Committee Chairman

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From:
Will Ris
Sr. Vice President
Government Affairs

History and Background

Pension reform has been a major goal of American, the Advocates program, our unions, and our independent employee groups for well over a year. We are all completely united on a single goal: the airline-specific language in the Senate version of the pension reform bill must be included in the final bill without any changes.

You may remember that pension reform legislation was passed by both the House and the Senate late last year. But, as is often the case, the Senate and House bills were very different ones in many respects. When that happens, a so-called "conference committee" made up of both House and Senate Members gets together to agree on a single bill that will be sent back to both bodies for a final vote. That conference committee has been formed and is in the process of writing a final bill.

The Senate version of pension reform contains language that will help American keep our defined benefit pension plans intact. It does so by allowing us to fund our plans at a steady pace and not be subjected to huge ups and downs. The Senate bill also helps Northwest, Delta, and Continental, with whom we are working together to advocate its passage. Unfortunately, the House bill contains no language at all to help airlines. So it is immensely important that the conference committee incorporates the Senate airline provisions in the final bill.

It may be helpful to know that a majority of the House of Representatives voted earlier this month to encourage their conferees to include the Senate airline provisions in the final bill. But this was just a recommendation, not a requirement. Also, 116 Members of the House equally divided between Republicans and Democrats have asked the conferees to include the Senate language in the bill.

Despite this momentum, a few Members of Congress oppose "industry-specific" legislation as does the President who has threatened to veto the final bill if it includes airline pension relief. So we need to build enough support in Congress that in the unlikely event that President Bush vetoes the legislation there will be sufficient votes to override a veto.