July 25, 2007

The Honorable Mary Peters
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: U.S.-China Route Case
Docket OST-07-28567

Dear Madame Secretary.

The employees of Northwest Airlines support the Detroit-Shanghai service in 2007 and the Detroit-Beijing service in 2009. This will not come as a surprise to anyone since employees from every airline applying for China service no doubt support those applications. However, the employees of Northwest need to point out that we are growing increasingly concerned about the growing competitive disparity in which we find ourselves.

Given United's recent award for Washington-Beijing service, and the highly restricted Guangzhou frequencies in 2008 that can realistically only be used for non-stop service from a large west coast hub, United will outnumber Northwest 42 frequencies to 21 unless we receive an award in this case. United should not be allowed to develop such a dominant position, nor should it have a U.S. carrier monopoly for West Coast passengers. We should not be penalized by the fact that we use China frequencies we hold today over our Tokyo-Narita hub; this allows us to offer consumers on the West Coast competitive service to china. The only way to avoid that result is by allocating Northwest the frequencies it needs to compete.

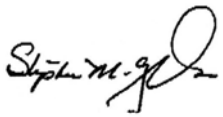
DOT will no doubt allocate a portion of frequencies to new entrants. However, with 42 frequencies available in this proceeding, there is clearly room for Northwest to receive the minimum seven frequencies we need to non-stop service at Detroit. None of the other applicants can or would challenge United to the same degree as Northwest, and there will be ample opportunities in later years for new carriers to secure additional frequencies once they have begun to establish themselves in China.

The employees of Northwest request your favorable consideration of Northwest Airlines' China service, Docket OST-07-28567.

Sincerely,



Captain Dave Stevens, Chairman
Air Line Pilots Association
Northwest Airlines Master Executive Council



Stephen M. Gordon, President-District 143
International Association of Machinist and
Aerospace Workers



Allan D. Goldstein, President
ATSA/IFTPE
Local 150



Perry Sprague, President
Transport Workers Union
Local 543



Meredith Willems, Chair
Northwest Airlines Meteorologists Association