



Press Release

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION
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Brookview Plaza
1450 Empire Central
Suite 737
Dallas, TX 75247

(214) 350-9237 | (800) 969-7972
fax: (214) 350-0647
www.swapa.org

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CONTACT : Neal Hanks

Director of Communications

214-722-4209, nhanks@swapa.org

Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association Opposes Delta/USAirways Slot Swap Proposal

Unprecedented agreement would shut out low fares in New York and Washington, D.C.

(DALLAS) The Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association is pushing for the Department of Transportation to disallow the permanent exchange of several hundred slots between Delta Airlines and USAirways at LaGuardia (LGA) and Washington National (DCA) Airports. This unprecedented anti-competitive deal would create hubs dominated by Delta at LGA and USAirways at DCA, giving them unchecked market and pricing power.

"The pilots of Southwest support our Company's request for a free market process to take place regarding these open slots in two very key destinations," said Capt. Carl Kuwitzky, SWAPA President. "But we also support the benefit to the public of a low-cost carrier providing true competition for flyers in these markets."

On March 22, after the DOT comment deadline closed, Delta and USAirways announced a revision to their proposal: they would agree to divest some slots, but only if they could hand-pick four smaller airlines to be given those slots. Southwest Airlines was purposely excluded from an opportunity to bid.

"An economic expert estimates that Southwest's service to LGA and DCA would save the public approximately \$200 million, annually, if Southwest were given the opportunity to acquire the slots," continued Kuwitzky. "This proposal is a back-room deal specifically designed to keep Southwest Airlines and its low-fare model away from these airports permanently."

Located in Dallas, Texas, the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee organization representing the more than 5,900 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA works to provide a secure and rewarding career for Southwest pilots and their families through negotiating contracts, defending contractual rights and actively promoting professionalism and safety. For more information on the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association, visit www.swapa.org.
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