



E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 3, 2013

Attorney General Eric Holder  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I am writing to you on behalf of the State of Oklahoma to express support for the pending merger between US Airways and American Airlines, which the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is currently challenging based on antitrust concerns. This merger is vitally important to Oklahoma's economy and I encourage you to consider Oklahoma's compelling interest in the new American Airlines.

A review by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office found no violation of the state's antitrust laws in the proposed merger between American Airlines and US Airways. It is evident the merger would actually benefit consumers. The new American Airlines will offer a combined network with improved service through 31 daily departures from Oklahoma and access to more than 330 destinations around the world. The merger also enhances the prospect of adding flights from Oklahoma City and Tulsa to the US Airways hubs across the United States. Blocking the merger would deny consumers more choices and options.

Not allowing the merger to proceed creates continuing uncertainty for the thousands of employees of American Airlines, one of the largest private-sector employers in the state. In Tulsa alone, American employs more than 6,000 workers at its maintenance facility. Those employees have faced uncertainty over the past 21 months while awaiting court approval of a reorganization plan. Since American Airlines filed bankruptcy in November 2011, the airline already has been forced to shed jobs. In fact, the *Tulsa World* recently reported that American Airlines could lay off an additional 400 workers in early 2014. The merger offers the most viable path forward to secure the maintenance jobs in Tulsa and ensure the continued economic prosperity of Oklahoma.

Additionally, the merger promises economic benefits for the Tulsa employees whose pensions have been frozen for almost two years. The merger has received strong support from the employees of both carriers because they know they will benefit from working for a more competitive airline that, by virtue of its improved network and better quality product, will grow and thrive in today's industry.

The merger of American Airlines and US Airways will strengthen communities in Oklahoma by providing better service to more destinations and more job opportunities over the long term. As an advocate for Oklahoma citizens, I strongly encourage the DOJ to allow this merger to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "E" and "P".

E. Scott Pruitt  
Oklahoma Attorney General