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September 22, 2008

Mr. Douglas M. Steenland
President and CEO
Northwest Air Lines, Inc.
2700 Lone Oak Parkways, Dept. A1030
Eagan, MN 55121-1534

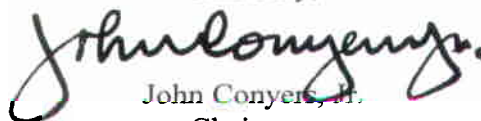
Dear Mr. Steenland:

On April 24, 2008, you testified in a hearing that I chaired for the Task Force on Competition Policy and Antitrust Laws regarding the state of competition in the airline industry. In follow-up meetings with other participants in that hearing, some allegations were raised with the staff of the Task Force which, if true, would be disturbing. We have been informed that approximately 500 Northwest mechanics, a number of whom are located in my district and currently on involuntary furlough, will be terminated on November 6, 2008, as a result of the expiration of their recall rights. Should they remain on involuntary furlough until that date, it is our understanding that their pensions will be dramatically reduced, and that Northwest will not provide them with the traditional lifetime flight benefits.

Some of these mechanics have been allowed to return to the job; however, there are reports that the airline is employing indirect means to prevent mechanics with strong union ties from returning to the job. We ask you to provide an explanation of what your anticipated need for mechanics is for the next year, how you intend to fill those needs, how your airlines are determining which mechanics to bring back to work, and whether your airlines are using non-unionized labor for mechanical work instead.

I appreciate your attention to the important issues I have laid out in this letter. Please respond within two weeks with your responses to these questions. Responses should be directed to the Judiciary Committee Office, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515 (tel: 202-225-3951, fax: 202-225-7680). Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Lamar Smith
Mr. Richard H. Anderson