

IAM

December 8, 2008
Northwest Airlines

#08-016

Air Transport District 143

Flashpoint

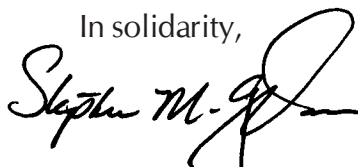
IAM and District 143 File Suit Against Delta Air Lines

As you know, on November 11, 2008, District Lodge 143 received a letter from Michael H. Campbell, Delta's Executive Vice President of Human Resource & Labor Relations, purporting to initiate a seniority integration process for "the combined frontline employee groups from Delta and Northwest" in order to accelerate the key decisions and milestones needed for a smooth, successful integration." He demanded that we arbitrate seniority integration before any ruling by the NMB on whether Northwest and Delta are an integrated single carrier and before there is a representation election which could result in the IAM representing employees of the same crafts and classes. He also said that Delta has already established and financed employee committees for the seniority integration process. These are better known as company-dominated "unions."

Today, the IAM and District Lodge 143 filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to prevent Delta from taking any further action to initiate a company-dominated seniority integration process until after there is a lawful representation election among the employees of Northwest and Delta. Delta's effort to illegally dominate the representation process violates the Railway Labor Act, which governs collective bargaining in the railway and airline industries, by (1) interfering with employee choice of representatives for purposes of seniority integration; (2) interfering with the IAM as the certified representative of Northwest employees and undermining the IAM's campaign to represent the employees of both Northwest and Delta once the carriers are integrated; and (3) establishing illegal company-dominated unions for purposes of the seniority integration process. In addition, Delta's actions violate federal law by initiating the seniority integration process before the proper steps under the Railway Labor Act have taken place. This litigation is part of our efforts to prevent Delta from bypassing the proper procedures under federal law throughout the merger process in order to derail a free and fair election to determine who will represent the employees of both Northwest and Delta once the carriers are integrated.

We will keep you posted on developments in this litigation.

In solidarity,



Stephen M. Gordon
President/Directing General Chair



08-028

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