

# MERGER



# WATCH

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## **Machinists Union, Passenger Rights Group Partner to Block Airline Mergers**

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the Coalition for an Airline Passengers Bill of Rights (CAPBOR) today announced they would join forces to oppose the potential merger of major U.S. air carriers.

“Airline employees and airline passengers have every right to be concerned about the negative impact of airline consolidation,” said IAM's General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. “Employees and passengers are the two groups essential to an airline’s success, yet they are the ones that are most hurt in mergers. Airlines must work with employees and cater to passengers if they expect to succeed.”

The IAM and CAPBOR will work together to oppose ill-advised mergers by coordinating legislative efforts and by demonstrating that mega-mergers are not in the best interests of the flying public, airline workers or the cities the airlines serve.

“The importance of this alliance cannot be overstated and we look forward to working with the IAM,” said Kate Hanni, founder and Executive Director of CAPBOR. “Airline passengers

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bear the brunt of poor service. Combining two major airlines with diverse corporate cultures is a recipe for disaster.”

The Coalition for an Airline Passengers Bill of Rights is the largest non-profit consumer group for airline passengers in the U.S. CAPBOR is the fastest growing grassroots coalition in history with over 21,000 members since being established February 10th, 2007. For additional information visit [www.flyersrights.org](http://www.flyersrights.org).

## **Airline Consolidation? Hell No!**

By James L. Oberstar

The airline business is, without a

doubt, a tough tiger to tame. Many have tried, and many have failed. The industry even fired Donald Trump.

Yet, I refuse to believe more mergers are the answer. Mergers may mean short-term profits for investors, but they inevitably mean long-term losses for workers and consumers. The merged carrier is never greater than the sum of its parts. It is always less, often much less. As the executives planning these mergers are polishing their golden parachutes, employees of the affected airlines are worrying about the potential loss of their pensions, their seniority, even their jobs.

This is not what we were promised when we deregulated the airline industry in 1978. If Transportation and Justice will not act to cool this merger mania, then Congress should.

We should just say no. Hell no!

*Representative James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.) is Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure. He has been directly involved in the oversight of the airline industry since 1987.*

(excerpt from businessweek.com)