

# MERGER



# WATCH

# April 1, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 6

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## **Machinists Advise States of Merger Pitfalls**

Continuing the Transportation Merger Team's efforts to use political pressure as one avenue to block potential mergers of the nation's major airlines, International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger has contacted the governors of all fifty states to express the Machinists Union's concerns.

Excerpts from IP Buffenbarger's letter:

*"I am asking your Administration strongly oppose any of the airline merger proposals currently being considered and take any legal measures necessary to protect your State's workers and consumers.*

*The Machinists Union, through its merger team of professional economists, lawyers, and consumer advocates, has evaluated every possible merger scenario involving United Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines and/or Continental Airlines. Our research reveals that any*

*combination of these carriers will result in tremendous job loss, a reduction of airline hubs, elimination of service to small communities, increased fares and fewer choices for passengers. As a State where the potential merger candidates have significant operations, industry consolidation would be disastrous for airline employees, airline support workers and anti-competitive for your State's consumers.*

*The Federal government, states and cities have made various concessions to major airlines to secure service and jobs for its citizens. On many occasions, the promises made were not kept. One only needs to look at the State of Indiana where a major airline walked away from its promise of jobs and left the State with approximately half a billion dollars in obligations to pay.*

*The prospect of airline mergers fills newspaper headlines nationwide. That same possibility fills tens of thousands of airline workers with dread and fear. On behalf of all the airline workers in your state, I am asking for your help."*

## **IAM Unveils Merger Survey**

Airline executives' thirst for industry consolidation remains unquenched. Although the Machinists Union strongly opposes mergers among the nation's major airlines, some airlines are determined to try.

Airline merger proposals come with many opinions from executives, union leaders, shareholders and Wall Street Analysts. The most important element at any airline, however, is its employees.

The Machinists Union wants to know what YOU think about airline mergers. We have prepared a brief survey as one of the ways we hope to better understand how employees at the airlines feel about potential mergers and what expectations you have should a merger at your employer be completed.

You can take the survey at [www.goiam.org/transportation](http://www.goiam.org/transportation) or from the Merger Pages on the Districts 141, 142 and 143 websites.