



*Association of Professional Flight Attendants*

*Office of the President*

October 26, 2010

Harry Hoglander, Chairman  
Elizabeth Dougherty, Member  
Linda Puchala, Member  
National Mediation Board of Directors  
1301 K Street, N.W., Suite 250E  
Washington, D.C. 20005-7011

Dear Chairman Hoglander, Member Dougherty, and Member Puchala:

I am writing to thank you for our meeting with staff members Dan Rainey and Larry Gibbons last week, where we expressed the overwhelming frustration of our negotiating team and membership after two and one half years of negotiations without a contract.

Since May 2003 our members have suffered deep cuts in wages, benefits, and working conditions. Not a day goes by that I don't hear about Flight Attendants struggling to provide for their families, pay their bills, or keep their homes despite working as many flights as possible. I have asked our members to send you letters to tell their stories, so you can more fully appreciate the economic challenges they face, day in and day out, working under a concessionary contract.

These are real people and families who are suffering from unnecessarily prolonged concessions. In 2003 we painstakingly reached an agreement that was intended to last five years; not, as will soon be the case, seven and one-half years. Every day these concessions remain in place and the status quo is left unchanged the company reaps another one million dollars in savings while executives continue to reward themselves with multi-million dollar bonuses each year.

It is time for the parties to be released from negotiations. We are well past the historical average of twenty months for federally-mediated negotiations. APFA has exhausted our options at the table, and absent action by the NMB, the company has no intention or incentive to negotiate with us.

I hope that the individual accounts describing the economic harm Flight Attendants have endured and continue to endure from far too many years of stagnant wages and benefits will help determine the NMB's response to APFA's request for a release.

Sincerely,

  
Laura Glading

President

Association of Professional Flight Attendants

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