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January 18, 2007

23307 U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets
400 7th Street, SW Plaza 401
Washington, DC 20590

Dear 23307 U.S. Department of Transportation:

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned that my choices as an airline passenger may soon be undercut by our government.

Virgin America is a new kind of domestic airline - with brand-new planes, cutting edge in-flight technology, outstanding customer service and competitive air fares. On Dec. 27, 2006, DOT "tentatively" denied Virgin America's application, even though the FAA completed its safety review and found it passed their most stringent standards.

Virgin America has responded to DOT with changes to their company that address each of DOT's questions about its ownership and control. Virgin America is, and will remain, a U.S.-owned and controlled company that meets all U.S. citizenship requirements.

Unfortunately, Washington politics just might get in the way of Virgin America's start up. At a time when so many major airlines in this country are in or just emerging from bankruptcy, and several have proposed mergers in the works, DOT should look to making competition better - not worse!

I hope the DOT won't push Virgin America's U.S. investors out, and allow the best capitalized startup airline in U.S. history simply slip away. I hope DOT won't tell air travelers like us who see fares rising, while quality, value and service plummet, that we can't have a real choice and real value.

Please tell DOT now, before they finalize their decision, that Virgin America deserves a chance, and consumers deserve more choice. It should be up to the marketplace, specifically those of us who fly, to decide whether Virgin America will fly.

Please ask DOT to promote competition and certify Virgin America for the public good. Help me by telling DOT and President Bush it's time to let Virgin America fly!

Sincerely,

Gretchen A. Farrell

source: 9248456

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