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DOJ Approves Continental-United Merger

The Department of Justice (DOJ) today cleared the United-Continental merger of any anti-trust issues, giving the merger regulatory approval.

"It is clear by the simultaneous announcements of leasing slots in Newark to Southwest Airlines and the DOJ clearing this transaction that United/Continental was attempting to satisfy the IAM's concerns expressed at our meeting with the DOJ regarding the loss of jobs as a result of this merger," said IAM General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "However this does not satisfy the IAM's concerns about the potential loss of jobs."

"The IAM has raised our concerns before Congress, various government agencies and at the bargaining table," said Roach. "We will continue meeting with Congress, Governors, State Legislators and any other party to protect the interests of all the employees that could be affected by this transaction."

The merger must still be approved by each carrier's shareholders. The airlines expect the transaction to close by October 1, 2010.