



STATE OF WISCONSIN

**BARBARA LAWTON**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 1, 2008

Mr. Timothy E. Hoeksema  
Chairman and CEO  
Midwest Airlines  
6744 South Howell Avenue  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Dear Mr. Hoeksema,

I write to add my voice to the chorus of other Wisconsin leaders and President-elect Obama expressing concern about the outsourcing of jobs of Midwest Airlines' Wisconsin employees. Wisconsinites have long and proudly boasted that our state is home to Midwest Airlines, an airline that stood apart from others with its reputation for unparalleled service to customers. This narrative could never have been written without the collaboration of the employees of Midwest Airlines, first among their peers. Certainly the deep public value of an airline grounded in Wisconsin and employing Wisconsin people contributed to the State of Wisconsin's support for Midwest in 2001 with the ad valorem tax exemption for airlines that have hubs in Wisconsin.

As you proceed with labor negotiations in the midst of admittedly very difficult economic times, I remind you that Wisconsin's competitive edge and trump card for sustainable economic growth is its workforce. The pilots and flight attendants and mechanics and others who over the years made sacrifices to support Midwest's viability—the 2003 restructuring is a story of labor's good faith in willing to work with the company—are those most likely to ensure continued public/customer confidence in the airline today. A long history of trust and generosity between employees and management and the state will collapse with the demand for concessions that is essentially an invitation to employees to buy back their jobs.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Lawton".

Barbara Lawton  
Lieutenant Governor