

DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY LEWIS JENKINS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Wednesday, October 2, 2013)

Judge Jenkins Statement in Response to Abbott's Lawsuit Announcement

"Attorney General Greg Abbott's decision to abandon his pursuit of litigation opposing the American Airlines-US Airways merger is good news for North Texas. I was the first elected official in Texas to call for a merger on <u>April 22, 2012</u> because I believed it provided American and its employees their <u>best chance at long term success</u>. I still believe that today. No new concessions were made in exchange for dropping the suit and I'm pleased the Attorney General has joined the ever growing ranks of elected officials supporting the merger.

North Texas is home to thousands of hardworking and committed aviation industry professionals. With the Wright Amendment ending in 2014 and the prospect of two visionary leadership teams under the direction of Gary Kelly at Southwest Airlines and Doug Parker at American Airlines, North Texas is poised to enter a golden era in air travel. I'm hopeful for a speedy and fair resolution of remaining issues with the Department of Justice and the other plaintiffs and I know the 120,000 total employees of American Airlines and US Air, nearly 20,000 of who call North Texas home, will rest easier knowing their home state has dropped its lawsuit against them."

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