

**DRAFT**  
**SUBJECT TO LEGAL REVIEW FOR ACCURACY, CLARITY, AND CONSISTENCY**  
**MARCH 1, 2004**

**Letter from the United States on air services**

Deputy Secretary  
Department of Transport and Regional Services

Dear

Recognizing the objectives for conclusion of a US-Australia Free Trade Agreement, the Government of the United States affirms that its aviation authorities are willing to consult with the Government of Australia's aviation authorities on developments in international air transport pursuant to the consultation procedures of the Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the United States of America, done at Washington on 3 December 1946, as amended. Such consultations will be held within two years of the date of this letter, or at any other time the Parties may decide. The Government of the United States also affirms its willingness to consult on realizing the shared objective of a more liberal air transport agreement with Australia, including liberal ground-handling provisions. The Government of the United States understands that the Government of Australia wishes to review, among other issues, the use of ownership and control criteria for international air carriers in the context of bilateral air transport agreements. The Government of the United States stands ready, as part of such consultations, to review any related developments, recognizing that such a review should take account of the objectives of the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

The United States also affirms its wish to promote continued liberalization in international air transportation bilaterally, as well as multilaterally through the Multilateral Agreement on the Liberalization of International Air Transportation.

Signed, John Byerly

Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Transportation Affairs