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May 11, 2011

Mr. Gerard J. Arpey
Chairman and CEO
American Airlines and AMR Corporation
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76155

Via Fax: 817-967-9641

Dear Mr. Arpey:

While we welcome the sentiments in your recent article headlined “AA Reduces Environmental Footprint” (*American Way*, April 1, 2011), it’s troubling that your company is actively working to undercut a crucial initiative for achieving such results.

The article states, “American Airlines is committed to identifying and implementing programs to reduce our environmental impact” and goes on to say that “our greatest environmental impact is the use of jet fuel.” Yet your company is suing in the European Court of Justice to block a new European law that holds all airlines accountable for their global warming pollution resulting from flights to, from and within the European Union. And your company is lobbying the U.S. Congress to declare the EU law invalid.

If in fact American Airlines is committed to reducing its environmental impact, it makes no sense to spend your customers’ money on lawyers and lobbyists in an effort to thwart a crucial anti-pollution program. The European Union deserves kudos, not lawsuits, for acting to reduce airline pollution – particularly given that the international community has proven incapable of doing so despite more than a dozen years of negotiations.

Other airlines – including other legacy carriers as well as business-jet and low-cost carriers – are moving to comply with the EU law. Innovation, not obstruction, is what’s needed now. We urge you to drop the lawsuit, and join the future of low-carbon aviation by making your actions consistent with your words.

Sincerely,

Kierán Suckling, Executive Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Trip Van Noppen, President
Earthjustice

Margie Alt, Executive Director
Environment America

Fred Krupp, President
Environmental Defense Fund

Frances Beinecke, President
Natural Resources Defense Council

Michael Brune, Executive Director
Sierra Club