June 24, 2019

Mr. Robert Isom
President
American Airlines
4333 Amon Carter Blvd
Fort Worth, TX  76155

Mr. Alex Garcia
International Executive Vice
President
Transport Workers Union
Director, TWU/IAM Association
501 3rd Street, NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC  20001

Mr. Sito Pantoja
General Vice President
International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace
Workers
Vice Director, TWU/IAM
Association
9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Messrs. Isom, Garcia, and Pantoja:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is aware of the litigation filed by American Airlines, Inc. (American) against the Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO (TWU), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), and Airline Mechanic and Related Employee Association TWU/IAM (collectively, the Union) in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas on May 20, 2019. The FAA is not a party to that litigation and is neutral regarding the labor negotiations that are ongoing between American and the Union.

The FAA cautions that a breakdown in the relationship between American and the Union raises concern about the ongoing effectiveness of the airline’s safety management system. Safety is a shared responsibility of American and Union members that demands a collaborative culture, irrespective of any ongoing controversy between the organizations.

In the midst of the litigation, I write to emphasize the importance of ensuring cooperatively, in accordance with FAA standards, the highest level of safety in the airline’s operations. The FAA trusts that American and the Union will strive to ensure that any judicial order in the litigation does not constrain appropriate safety activities.

The FAA looks forward to continuing to work together to serve the traveling public.

Sincerely,

Ali Bahrami
Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety