



May 9, 2019

Kyle Fortson, Chairman
Linda Puchala, Member
Gerald W. Fauth, III, Member
National Mediation Board
1301 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re: NMB Case No. A-13863 – AFA/Air Wisconsin

Dear Board Members:

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO (AFA) requests the National Mediation Board issue a proffer of arbitration in the negotiations between AFA and Air Wisconsin. This case is particularly suited to a proffer of arbitration due to the significant length of these negotiations and the unwillingness of Air Wisconsin to substantively modify its bargaining position, despite repeated opportunities.

The Railway Labor Act states that the National Mediation Board (NMB) shall issue a proffer of arbitration when its “efforts to bring about an amicable settlement through mediation shall be unsuccessful.” Here, intensive mediation has proven unsuccessful in resolving the dispute despite the best efforts of NMB mediators.

Air Wisconsin Flight Attendants can no longer endure poverty wages. A starting Flight Attendant makes as little as \$15,000 per year. Air Wisconsin Flight Attendants have not received an increase in their pay rates since 2007. These negotiations have already gone on too long.

The parties have engaged in extensive negotiations over a three year period, beginning July 20, 2016. AFA and Air Wisconsin held ten bargaining sessions in direct negotiations prior to the union filing for mediation on August 30, 2017. Eleven additional mediation sessions have been conducted.

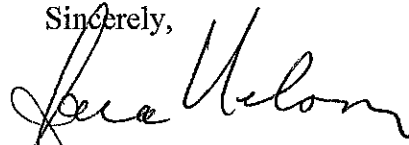
At the September 2018 mediation session, AFA made a comprehensive proposal dramatically narrowing the number of open issues and moved closer to the company position on the key issue of wages. For the last six months, the company has not budged from their core economic position. There is no reason to believe that further mediation will prompt the parties to reach an agreement.

A proffer of arbitration is necessary to move the negotiations towards an agreement. All open issues have been thoroughly discussed. The limited number of open issues can easily be resolved in a thirty-day cooling-off period.

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AFA respectfully requests the Board issue a proffer of arbitration in case A-13863.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Nelson", written in a cursive style.

Sara Nelson, International President

cc: Pat Simms, Director of Mediation Services
Terri Brown, Senior Mediator
Victoria Gray, Mediator
Joe Burns, AFA Director Collective Bargaining
Ernie Lazernick, AFA Air Wisconsin MEC President