



**NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20572

(202) 692-5000

In the Matter of the  
Application of

AIRCRAFT MECHANICS  
FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

alleging a representation dispute  
pursuant to Section 2, Ninth, of  
the Railway Labor Act, as  
amended

involving employees of

ALASKA AIRLINES, INC. / VIRGIN  
AMERICA, INC.

47 NMB No. 7

CASE NO. R-7537

FINDINGS UPON  
INVESTIGATION-  
CERTIFICATION  
DETERMINATION

December 18, 2019

This determination addresses the representation consequences of the application filed pursuant to the Railway Labor Act (RLA)<sup>1</sup> by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) for the Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class at the merged Alaska Airlines, Inc. / Virgin America, Inc. (collectively Alaska Airlines, Inc. or the Combined Carrier).

The National Mediation Board (Board or NMB) extends AMFA's certification to include all of the employees in the Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class at Alaska Airlines, Inc.

### **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

On August 5, 2019, AMFA filed an application alleging a representation dispute involving the craft of class of Mechanics and Related Employees at the

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<sup>1</sup> 45 U.S.C. § 151, *et seq.*

Combined Carrier. AMFA asserted that Alaska Airlines, Inc. (Alaska) and Virgin America, Inc. (Virgin America) constituted a single transportation system. The application was assigned NMB File No. CR-7206 and the Board initially assigned to Norman Graber to investigate. The case was reassigned to John S.F. Gross.

On October 24, 2019, the Board found that Alaska and Virgin America operate as a single transportation system under the RLA for the Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class. *Alaska Airlines/Virgin America*, 47 NMB 25 (2019). Pursuant to the Board's Representation Manual (Manual) Section 19.6, this determination addresses the representation of those employees.

The Board's October 24, 2019 determination stated the following: "Any Intervenor has 30 days from the date of this determination to file an application supported by a showing of interest of at least 50 percent of the single transportation system in accordance with Manual Sections 19.601 and 19.603." No Intervenor filed an application in this case.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

AMFA is the representative of approximately 721 Mechanics and Related Employees at Alaska under the Board's certification in NMB Case No. R-6572. At the time AMFA filed its application in this matter, there were 209 unrepresented Mechanics and Related Employees at Virgin America.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Board has consistently extended an organization's certification to cover employees in the craft or class on the entire system when the numbers of employees on each part of the system are not comparable. *American Airlines/US Airways*, 41 NMB 289 (2014). *See also United Air Lines/Continental Airlines*, 38 NMB 249 (2011); *American Airlines, Inc./TWA Airlines, LLC*, 29 NMB 278 (2002); *American Airlines, Inc./TWA Airlines, LLC*, 29 NMB 260 (2002); *Continental Airlines/Continental Express*, 20 NMB 580 (1993).

The numbers of employees in the Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class at pre-merger Alaska and pre-merger Virgin America are not comparable. Therefore, AMFA's certification in R-6572 is extended to cover the entire Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class on Alaska Airlines, Inc.

**CONCLUSION**

The Board finds that AMFA is the certified representative of the Mechanics and Related Employees craft or class at Alaska Airlines, Inc. (R-7537). Accordingly, Case R-7537 is closed.

By direction of the NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary L. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary L. Johnson  
General Counsel