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UNCERTAIN TIMES: NOW IS THE TIME TO PROTECT OURSELVES WITH A UNION



end of 2021. And now with the U.S. banning oil imports from Russia because of the war on Ukraine, we expect costs to go even higher.

This is probably no surprise to you. You've seen first-hand how prices at the pump have shot up, and you might be thinking about how you can cut down on your own gas usage by driving less. At JetBlue, we need to be thinking about our business the same way. We were already unprofitable, and now we are spending almost \$2 million more per day than we planned, thanks to the high price of fuel. That adds up fast. Fuel is one of our biggest operating costs and while we remain hopeful that the current high prices will come down some, the reality is that costs are very likely to remain high into

Last week, CEO Robin Hayes wrote to JetBlue employees and stated that the airline industry's recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic is being threatened by surging fuel prices. He is correct.

CEO Haves also went on to state the ways in which JetBlue workers can step up and help out during this time. Reasonable. He claimed that JetBlue's schedule will be scaled down due to higher fuel prices making certain routes unprofitable. Realistic.

Everyone, including the IAM, wants to see JetBlue be successful.But, how can we protect ourselves during these very uncertain times? What if the financial situation in our industry gets so bad that JetBlue has to declare bankruptcy? Many airline analysts are forecasting airline bankruptcies. What if the financial condition of the industry gets to the point that mergers/acquisitions are the only way airlines can survive? History has shown that airline mergers and acquisitions are much more likely to happen during times of industry downturns.

Joining a union is the best way to protect ourselves. Why? During the bankruptcy process airlines **MUST NEGOTIATE** with employee unions and workers have a voice in the outcome. During mergers, negotiations regarding seniority rights, wages, benefits and working conditions is required. In short, if the worst happens, then having union representation benefits us.

While we hope our industry can make it through these uncertain times, we need to prepare for the alternative. Hoping is not enough. Having IAM representation would go a long way to ensuring that our interests are represented no matter what happens.

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