



*We welcome letters to the Editor from pilots in good standing. We will edit them if necessary, but we will make every effort to preserve the author's meaning. Letters must include the writer's name and phone number. We will publish only letters that have not been sent to other persons or posted publicly – e.g., in crew rooms. Please keep your letters to 200 words or less.*

**OUR ARBITRATOR**

You have all heard the big announcement. In this ever-changing world of consolidations, mergers and globalization, we are faced with another major challenge.

Very soon, merger assessment bills will show up at your mailboxes. It will be followed by emails, emotional speeches, letters and committee updates. And at the end, we will all have a legitimate reason to complain. Please do not let the history repeat itself. I am asking each and every one of you to join me and ask your elected representatives to:

1. Hire the best negotiation team that money can buy. For the sake of brevity, I will not bore you with the significance of highly skilled professionals needed for this task.

2. Without a doubt, the pilots' seniority issue will be settled in an arbitration process. Unfortunately at that point, the fate of more than 16,000 pilots and their families will be determined by one person. By virtue of past experience, I submit to you that one man ruling is wrong. I hope our MEC realizes the magnitude and impact single person decision and urge ALPA to establish a panel of at least three arbitrators with different backgrounds. After all, this is too big for one man.

Please get involved. It is the future you can change.

*Majid Afkhami (PHL)  
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