



Facts are a Stubborn Thing

A few weeks ago, I was watching the John Adams mini-series on HBO when I came across the quote, “Facts are a stubborn thing.” I had to replay that section and listen to the quote a second time because it struck me that this is exactly what we’re dealing with in negotiations – the facts.

With negotiations ramping up again, I’ve been thinking about how we can make progress and clear important items off the table. I know that there’s always a lot of ancillary noise and activity that surrounds negotiations and this round of bargaining has been no different. But regardless of the external chatter, I’m hopeful the negotiating teams can return to the table and take a clear-eyed look at the facts in our industry and begin to create a road map for the years ahead.

And focusing on the facts will make sure that our plan is sustainable over the long-term. Any number of proposals might serve the company or pilots for six months or a year, but extended out over longer periods would lead us back to the same spot we’re in now. So we’ve got to focus on finding solutions in the middle because I believe we all want the same thing – for American to return to consistent profitability so that it can provide good jobs and growth opportunities for decades to come.

While I’m frustrated that we haven’t been able to make more progress since negotiations started, I’m optimistic that we can get the job done. We’ve started work with a new APA negotiating team and I truly believe everyone at the table is interested in getting a contract that provides a framework for our collective future. While I’m an optimist, I’m also a realist and understand that there are still major differences to be addressed and none of this will happen overnight. But I still believe we can get this done by taking a careful look at the facts and using hard data to drive our decision making process.

I know that most pilots, while worried about our future and disappointed about the course of the industry over last decade, still have great pride in the job they do and want to see American Airlines succeed. As we begin the next phase of our negotiations, I pledge that I will continue to do what’s within my ability to offer solutions that benefit both the pilots and company and secure our collective future.

Strength and Honor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Hale". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Captain John Hale
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