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**Response Deadline: May 18, 2007**  
**Hearing Date: To be determined**

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Unsecured Creditors of Delta Air Lines, Inc., *et al.*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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: **In re:** : **Chapter 11**  
: :  
: **DELTA AIR LINES, INC. et al.,** : **Case No. 05-17923 (ASH)**  
: :  
: **Debtors.**<sup>1</sup> : **(Jointly Administered)**  
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**TIA/SLV OBJECTION 5R: OBJECTION BY COMAIR, INC. AND THE OFFICIAL  
COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS TO CERTAIN CLAIMS ASSERTED BY  
NATIONAL CITY COMMERCIAL CAPITAL COMPANY AND WELLS FARGO  
FOR TAX INDEMNITIES AND STIPULATED LOSS VALUES**

**This Objection Relates To:**

**Tail Nos.: N403CA, N709CA, and N821CA**

**Claim Nos.: 6600, 6613, and 6735**

**Filed By: Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, National Association, as Indenture Trustee**

**Claim Nos.: 6898, 6899, and 6901**

**Filed By: National City Commercial Capital Company, LLC**

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors are: ASA Holdings, Inc.; Comair Holdings, LLC; Comair, Inc.; Comair Services, Inc.; Crown Rooms, Inc.; DAL Aircraft Trading, Inc.; DAL Global Services, LLC; DAL Moscow, Inc.; Delta AirElite Business Jets, Inc.; Delta Air Lines, Inc.; Delta Benefits Management, Inc.; Delta Connection Academy, Inc.; Delta Corporate Identity, Inc.; Delta Loyalty Management Services, LLC; Delta Technology, LLC; Delta Ventures III, LLC; Epsilon Trading, Inc.; Kappa Capital Management, Inc.; and Song, LLC.

Comair, Inc. (“**Comair**”) and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “**Committee**”), through their undersigned counsel, submit this objection (the “**Objection**”) to Proof of Claim Nos. 6898, 6899, and 6901 (the “**NCCC Claims**” or the “**TIA Claims**”), asserted by National City Commercial Capital Company, LLC (“**NCCC**”), seeking tax indemnities with respect to leveraged lease transactions involving the aircraft bearing the registration (“tail”) numbers identified above (the “**Aircraft**”); and Proof of Claim Nos. 6600, 6613, and 6735 (the “**Wells Fargo Claims**” or the “**SLV Claims**”) by Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, National Association (“**Wells Fargo**”), as indenture trustee, seeking payment of stipulated loss values with respect to the same transactions and Aircraft.

### **Summary of the Objection**

The NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims seek recovery for the same matters. The agreements that govern the leveraged lease transactions at issue in this Objection contain a number of provisions that recognize the overlap between NCCC’s tax indemnity claims and the Wells Fargo Claims. Among other provisions:

- Section 6 of each tax indemnity agreement states that “[i]n the event a Loss<sup>2</sup> occurs and Lessee actually pays the Indemnity attributable thereto, the Termination Values and Stipulated Loss Values associated with the Aircraft or with the portion thereof to which such indemnity payment from Lessee relates thereupon, without further act of the parties hereto, shall be adjusted, upward or downward as the case may be, if and to the extent necessary to reflect such indemnity, such adjustments to be determined

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<sup>2</sup> The Indemnity Agreement for each transaction defines “Loss” as an event whereby the Owner Participant is (a) unable to claim or is forced to recapture the tax benefits originally envisioned by the transaction, or (b) required to recognize taxable income earlier than, or in a greater amount than, it would have had to recognize such income in accordance with the assumptions set forth in the Indemnity Agreement (which specify what the tax consequences to the Owner Participant should be in absence of a Loss).

in accordance with the methodology and assumptions (including the Basic Tax Assumptions) as were employed in originally calculating the Stipulated Loss Values and Termination Values, varying such assumptions to take into account the circumstances giving rise to such indemnity payment and any future tax detriments and benefits to Owner Participant arising as a result thereof.”<sup>3</sup>

- Section 4 of each tax indemnity agreement states that no payment is due for tax-related losses in the Event of Loss<sup>4</sup> if “Lessee is required under the Lease to pay, and shall have paid in full, the Stipulated Loss Value for such Aircraft or Engine, or any termination of the Lease pursuant to the provisions thereof, whereby Lessee is required under the Lease to pay, and shall have paid in full, Termination Value or an amount determined by reference to the Termination Value for the Aircraft (to the extent such amounts accurately reflect the tax effect of such events)[.]”<sup>5</sup>

The contracts that govern the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims therefore recognize the overlap between the TIA Claims and SLV Claims and require that the claims be adjusted to take account of each other.

Comair and the Committee submit that a single loss gives rise to a single claim, and that overlapping claims cannot be allowed. Accordingly, the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims cannot both be allowed. Instead, the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims must be adjusted to eliminate the overlaps among them.

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<sup>3</sup> The relevant provision in the Indemnity Agreement for N709CA is substantially the same, and replaces the phrase, “including the Basic Tax Assumptions”, with the phrase, “assumptions set forth in Section 1 hereof.”

<sup>4</sup> The definition of “Event of Loss” for each transaction includes events such as the destruction of the aircraft. For the sake of clarity, the Aircraft at issue in this Objection have not undergone an Event of Loss.

<sup>5</sup> The relevant provision in the Indemnity Agreement for N709CA is substantially the same.

## **Reservation of Other Objections**

This Objection applies only to the extent that the NCCC Claims seek payments pursuant to tax indemnity agreements, and to the extent that the Wells Fargo Claims seek payments of stipulated loss value, with respect to leveraged lease transactions involving the Aircraft. Comair and the Committee reserve the right to assert additional objections to the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims at a later date, including without limitation (i) additional objections to the extent that the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims relate to other aircraft, (ii) additional objections to the Wells Fargo Claims to the extent they seek stipulated loss value, (iii) additional objections to the portions of the NCCC Claims that seek recovery pursuant to tax indemnity agreements with respect to the Aircraft and (iv) objections to other amounts, such as for legal fees or general indemnity, encompassed within the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims.

## **Background**

### **A. Procedural History and Jurisdiction**

1. On September 14, 2005, Comair and a number of its affiliates (collectively, the “**Debtors**”) each filed a voluntary Chapter 11 petition. The Debtors are debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. On September 28, 2005, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “**Committee**”) pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. The Debtors and the Committee previously sought to resolve certain issues relating to leveraged lease claims pursuant to procedures that were approved by the Court in an Order entered October 12, 2006. During a conference on January 31, 2007, the Court suggested that it would prefer that the Debtors assert objections to individual claims, with the aim of identifying different transactions that would provide representative samples of the ways in which various of the Debtors’ leveraged lease agreements were worded. Pursuant to the Court's

request, the Debtors have grouped claims bearing similar characteristics into several categories and have filed objections with the Court based on a sample of tails from each of these categories. This Objection falls within the category represented by TIA/SLV Objection 5, filed with the Court on March 23, 2007 [Docket No. 5401]. Comair and the Committee request that this Objection not proceed to hearing until TIA/SLV Objection 5 has been resolved.

3. This Objection relates to three separate leveraged lease transactions. The Objection is asserted under section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3007. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction to consider this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

**B. Leveraged Leases Generally**

4. Many of the Debtors' aircraft are subject to leveraged lease financing transactions. A typical leveraged lease transaction includes these components:

(a) The parties enter into a master agreement (called a "**Participation Agreement**") that, among other things, specifies the roles of the parties and that identifies the other agreements that are to be executed.

(b) A trust (the "**Owner Trust**") obtains ownership of one or more aircraft. The Owner Trust finances its acquisition of the aircraft through (i) an equity contribution from the entity that is the beneficiary of the Owner Trust (the "**Owner Participant**") and (ii) borrowings from one or more lenders (the "**Lenders**" or "**Lender Participants**"). In more complicated structures, the borrowings may include various forms of public debt financing.

(c) The Owner Trust enters into an aircraft lease (the "**Lease**") with Delta and/or Comair, Inc. The Lease is usually a "net" lease which requires the lessee to pay

all taxes and operating expenses. Basic rent payments are normally sufficient to amortize the debt payments to the Lenders, and often also provide a cash return – referred to as “equity free cash” – for the Owner Participant.

(d) In order to provide security for the borrowed funds, the Owner Trustee typically grants a security interest in its ownership interests in the aircraft, and also assigns (for security purposes) its interests in the Lease (subject to certain exceptions), to an indenture trustee acting for the lenders (the “**Indenture Trustee**”). The Indenture Trustee makes debt payments from the lease rentals and distributes the excess (if any) to the Owner Trust. The Indenture Trustee usually is entitled to control the exercise of remedies upon the occurrence of an event of a default.

5. Leveraged lease transactions provide significant tax benefits to Owner Participants. Rental payments are treated as income, but interest payments on the outstanding debt are deductible, as are transaction expenses (over time). More importantly, the Owner Participant in a leveraged lease transaction is entitled to take accelerated depreciation deductions with respect to the aircraft. The excess of these deductions over the rental income may be used to offset other income that the Owner Participant has, or other income in the consolidated tax group of which the Owner Participant is a member.

6. Leases in leveraged lease transactions typically provide for the payment of a “stipulated loss value” or a “termination value” (“**SLV**”) in the event of a foreclosure or other event. SLV is usually determined by reference to a schedule attached to the Lease that lists either dollar amounts to be paid (depending on the date of a triggering event) or SLV percentages which are multiplied by a fixed number (such as the Lessor’s cost) to generate the dollar amount of SLV. SLV can be calculated in different ways, but typically it is calculated (i) to permit the

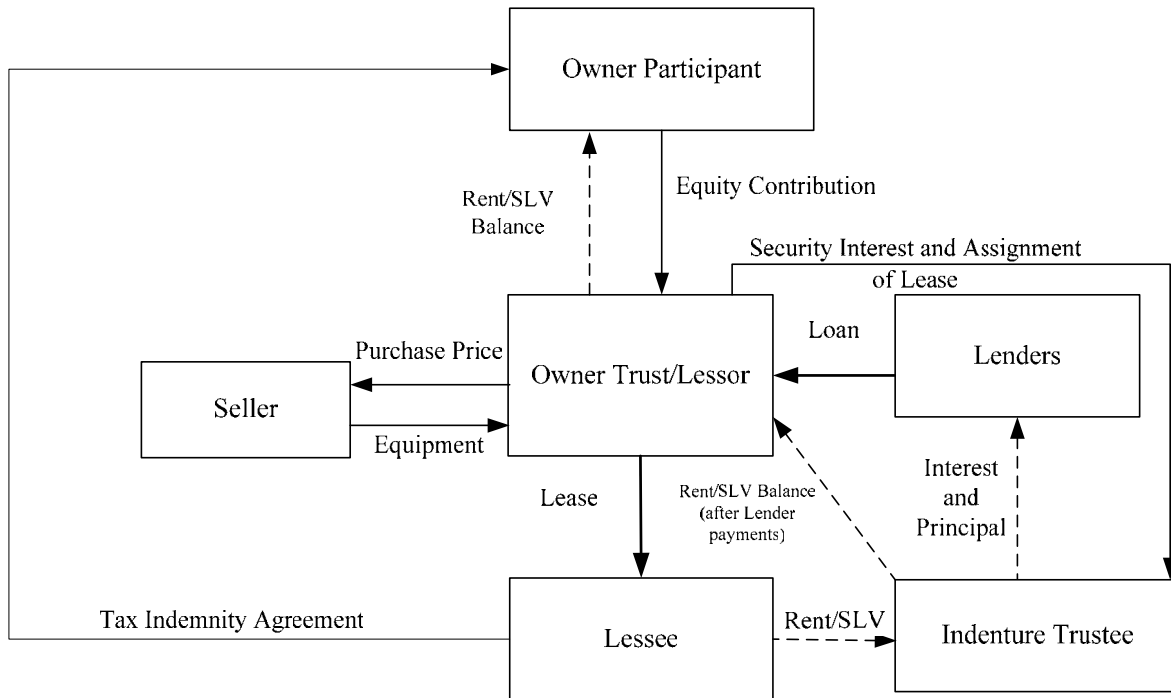
payoff of the remaining debt, and (ii) to allow the Owner Participant to earn an agreed-upon return through the date of termination. The calculation of SLV takes account of, among other things, the adverse tax consequences to the Owner Participant from a foreclosure or other event.

7. Lessees in leveraged lease transactions usually enter into Tax Indemnity Agreements (“**TIAs**”) with Owner Participants that also relate to the potential tax consequences of various events. Some TIAs provide either (a) indemnification to the Owner Participant if the Lessee’s acts or omissions result in the “recapture” of prior depreciation deductions or (b) indemnification for unexpected inclusions in the Owner Participant’s taxable income as a result of certain listed causes. Other TIAs provide indemnification to the Owner Participant for both (a) and (b), above.

8. As noted above, Leases typically are assigned to an Indenture Trustee. The assignments usually include an assignment (in whole or in part) of rights to collect SLV and to use payments to repay principal and interest on the outstanding debt plus certain fees and expenses. The assignment documents typically provide that the balance of any SLV payment is to be returned to the Owner Trustee. On the other hand, TIAs usually are not assigned to other parties.

9. A diagram of a typical leveraged lease structure is set forth below:

## Leveraged Leases



10. As described above, stipulated loss value calculations and tax indemnity agreement claims each typically address the tax consequences, to an Owner Participant (or the tax group of which it is a member), that result from a premature termination of the transaction or from other specified events. In fact, the governing contracts usually contain provisions that recognize the overlaps between SLV and TIA Claims. Regardless of whether or not the overlap is discussed in the contracts themselves, however, the fact remains that SLV and TIA Claims typically include contractual rights to recovery for the same matters. *See* William A. Macan IV, “Review of US Tax Issues That Drive the Deals,” Thirteenth Annual US Cross-Border Leasing & Structured Finance Conference, p.19 (2002) (“Also noted is the somewhat duplicative claim to which the documents entitle the Investor when a T[ermination] V[alue]/SLV event occurs – the right to receive a TIA payment for the adverse tax consequences unless and until T[ermination] V[alue]/SLV has been paid in full.”).

**C. The Leveraged Lease For Tail No. N709CA**

11. One of the three transactions that are the subject of this Objection was consummated in 1998. Comair entered into a leveraged lease transaction for one Canadair Model CL-600-2B19 aircraft with tail number N709CA. In the transaction, National City Leasing Corporation (“**NCLC**”) (predecessor to NCCC) was the Owner Participant, First Union National Bank (“**First Union**”) was the Owner Trustee, and The First National Bank of Maryland (“**First National Bank**”) was the Indenture Trustee. Export Development Corporation (“**EDC**”) was the Lender.

12. This transaction involved primarily the following agreements:

(a) Comair, NCLC (the Owner Participant), EDC (the Lender), First Union (as Owner Trustee), and First National Bank (as Indenture Trustee) all entered into a Participation Agreement.

(b) First Union (as Owner Trustee) and Comair entered into a Lease.

(c) First Union (as Owner Trustee) and First National Bank (as Indenture Trustee) entered into a Trust Indenture and Security Agreement (a “**Trust Indenture**”) granting to the Indenture Trustee a security interest in First Union’s ownership interests in the aircraft with tail number N709CA and assigning for security purposes First Union’s interests in the Lease to First National Bank. From the lease rentals, First National Bank made debt payments to the Lenders and distributed any excess to the Owner Trust.

(d) Comair entered into an Indemnity Agreement (as previously defined, a “TIA”) with NCLC, as described in the following paragraphs.<sup>6</sup>

13. Comair understands that in the foregoing transaction, NCCC has succeeded NCLC as Owner Participant. Comair also understands that Wells Fargo is the successor to First National Bank as Indenture Trustee.

14. In the foregoing transaction, The NCCC Claim seeks payment pursuant to a TIA. The Wells Fargo Claim seeks payment of SLV under a Lease.

**D. The Leveraged Leases For Tail Nos. N403CA and N821CA**

15. Two of the three transactions that are the subject of this Objection were consummated in 2000. Comair entered into leveraged lease transactions for two Canadair Model CL-600-2B19 aircraft with tail numbers N403CA and N821CA. In each of the transactions, NCLC was the Owner Participant, First Union was the Owner Trustee, and First Security Bank, National Association (“**First Security Bank**”) was the Indenture Trustee. Norddeutsche (“**Norddeutsche**”) was the Lender.

16. In the relevant respects, the governing documents for the two transactions contain substantially the same provisions. These two transactions involved primarily the following agreements:

(a) Comair, NCLC (the Owner Participant), Norddeutsche (the Lender), First Union (as Owner Trustee), and First Security Bank (as Indenture Trustee) all entered into a Participation Agreement.

(b) First Union (as Owner Trustee) and Comair entered into a Lease.

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<sup>6</sup> Upon execution of appropriate confidentiality agreements, copies of the Lease, Participation Agreement, Trust Indenture and TIA for the transactions that are subject to this Objection will be supplied to the parties named in this Objection and to other parties who have claims in connection with the leveraged lease transactions and who wish to obtain copies.

(c) First Union (as Owner Trustee) and First Security Bank (as Indenture Trustee) entered into a Trust Indenture and Security Agreement (a “**Trust Indenture**”) granting to the Indenture Trustee a security interest in First Union’s ownership interests for each of these aircraft and assigning for security purposes First Union’s interests in the Leases to First Security Bank. From the lease rentals, First Security Bank made debt payments to the Lenders and distributed any excess to the Owner Trust.

(d) Comair entered into an Indemnity Agreement (as previously defined, a “TIA”) with NCLC, as described in the following paragraphs.

17. In the foregoing transactions, Comair understands that NCCC has succeeded NCLC as Owner Participant. Comair also understands that Wells Fargo is the successor to First Security Bank as Indenture Trustee.

18. Each of the NCCC Claims for Tail Nos. N403CA and N821CA seeks payment pursuant to a TIA. Each of the Wells Fargo Claims seeks payment of SLV under a Lease.

#### **Grounds for the Objection**

19. NCCC’s TIA Claims and Wells Fargo’s SLV Claims seek compensation for the same alleged loss and overlap with each other.

20. The overlap between the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims is also recognized in the contracts themselves. Section 1 of each Lease includes a definition of “Net Economic Return” that makes clear that the calculation of SLV includes an amount that is calculated to take the Owner Participant’s taxes into account and to preserve the Owner Participant’s anticipated after-tax returns. For example, Appendix A of the Participation Agreement for Tail No. N403CA states as follows:

“Net Economic Return” means Owner Participant's aggregate after-tax cash flow and anticipated after-tax yield through the EBO Date and the end of the Basic Term from the transaction contemplated by the

Participation Agreement utilizing the multiple investment sinking fund method of analysis, computed on the basis of the same methodology and assumptions as were utilized by Owner Participant in determining the Basic Rent installments, Stipulated Loss Values, Termination Values and EBO Amount set forth in Annexes A, B, and C to the Lease Supplement as originally executed, as such assumptions are modified on account of the occurrence of the events referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of Section 3.4 of the Lease.

In addition, Section 6 of each tax indemnity agreement states that in the event the Lessee “actually pays the Indemnity..., Stipulated Loss Values associated with the Aircraft or with the portion thereof to which such indemnity payment from Lessee relates thereupon... shall be adjusted, upward or downward as the case may be, if and to the extent necessary to reflect such indemnity. . . .” Section 4 states that no payment is due for tax-related losses arising from an Event of Loss if “Lessee is required under the Lease to pay, and shall have paid in full, the Stipulated Loss Value for” the aircraft. The contractual language indicates that the same claim is included in both the TIA calculation and the SLV calculation.

21. Comair and the Committee submit that to the extent the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims overlap and seek compensation for the same loss, only one such claim may be allowed, and the Court should reduce the NCCC Claims and/or the Wells Fargo Claims to eliminate the overlaps among them.

**A. The TIA Claims and SLV Claims For The Same Loss, And To The Extent Of That Overlap Only One Claim Can Be Allowed**

22. It is common, in the law, that a claimant may be entitled to recover for a single injury based on multiple legal theories. Persons injured by defective products, for example, may be entitled to recover compensation under theories of strict product liability, negligence, and/or breach of warranty. Persons who are deceived in connection with financial investments may be entitled to recover compensation under claims of fraud, negligent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contractual representations or warranties, and/or violations of federal or

state disclosure statutes. Officers and directors who seek indemnification may be entitled to rely on statutory principles, corporate by-laws or individual employment contracts to provide such indemnification. There are a host of other examples that can easily be identified and that commonly arise both within bankruptcy and outside bankruptcy.

23. It is generally recognized that a loss provides a claimant with only one right of payment, no matter how many separate legal theories may be invoked in support of that right of payment. *See Diversified Graphics, Ltd. v. Groves*, 868 F.2d 293, 295 (8th Cir. 1989) (“Regardless of whether the harm was the result of negligence or breach of fiduciary duty or a combination of both, there is only a single injury and there may only be a single recovery”). This rule applies in bankruptcy cases as well. For bankruptcy purposes, a claim constitutes a “right to payment.” *See* 11 U.S.C. § 101. The existence of multiple *theories* under which recovery may be sought from a debtor does not change the fact that a single loss gives rise to a single right to payment and therefore a single “claim” against the debtor for bankruptcy purposes.

24. In bankruptcy, therefore, “multiple recoveries for an identical injury are generally disallowed.” *See In re Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson & Casey*, 160 B.R. 882, 894 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1993). In *Finley*, the debtor had failed to make required pension plan contributions, resulting in an underfunding of its pension plan. *Id.* at 893. The pension plan trustee, on one hand, filed a claim against the debtor to collect the unpaid plan contributions. *Id.* at 887. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), on the other hand, filed a claim against the debtor for the amount of the debtor’s unfunded benefit liabilities that were insured by the government. *Id.* Each claim was based on a different legal theory, but each claim related to the same “loss”: that is, the economic effect (on the pension plan) of the

debtor's failure to make a required payment. The bankruptcy trustee objected to the claims, arguing that both claims sought recovery for an identical injury. *Id.* at 893.

25. The pension plan trustee and PBGC argued in *Finley* that their claims arose from different legal rights and that, even if they overlapped, the claims should only be reduced to the extent that the debtor's estate actually paid the separate claims in "tiny bankruptcy dollars," not to the extent that the claims were allowed in pre-bankruptcy dollars. *Id.* The Bankruptcy Court rejected this position, finding it to be "entirely at odds with fundamental bankruptcy policy favoring equality of distribution among similarly situated creditors." *Id.* at 894. The Bankruptcy Court noted that the claims sought compensation for the same loss (the debtor's missed pension contribution), and that the allowance of both claims, or the reduction of the claims only to the extent of actual payment in "tiny bankruptcy dollars," would result in a distribution with respect to that loss that would exceed the ratable distribution to all other unsecured creditors. *Id.* at 894. The Bankruptcy Court held that such an outcome would be "inconsistent with the letter and spirit of Title 11," and disallowed the claims to the extent that they sought compensation for the same loss. *Id.*

26. Guided by the principles of ratable distribution and of uniform treatment for creditors, other bankruptcy courts also have stricken claims to the extent they overlap and to the extent they seek recovery for the same loss. *See, e.g., In re Simetco, Inc.*, No. 93-61772, 1996 WL 651001, at \*3 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio Feb. 15, 1996) (disallowing claim to the extent it related to the same loss that was covered by another claim in light of the potential windfall to the creditor, and holding that multiple recoveries for the same loss "would violate the principles of ratable distribution and offend the notion of uniform treatment for creditors"); *In re Chateaugay Corp.*, 115 B.R. 760, 784 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990), *aff'd*, 130 B.R. 690 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1991), *vacated*

by agreement of the parties, 17 Employee Benefits Cas. (BNA) 1102 (S.D.N.Y. 1993)<sup>7</sup> (holding that claims for unpaid contributions and claims for “plan insufficiency” were duplicative of each other, and that allowing “two dollars of claims against the same Debtor for one dollar of loss violates the principles of equality of distribution and uniformity of treatment of creditors that are fundamental to the Code”); *In the Matter of Brinke Transp., Inc.*, No. 87-03785, 1989 WL 233147, at \*3 (Bankr. D.N.J. Jan. 23, 1989) (where claims substantially overlapped, striking claim that was subsumed in other claims). The same result is necessary in the present case to prevent the affront to bankruptcy policy identified in *Finley* and in the other cases cited above.

27. The policy against duplicative recoveries is also reflected in 11 U.S.C. § 502(e), which bars duplicative claims by a creditor and by a guarantor of the creditor’s claim. *See* S. Rep. No. 95-989, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. 65 (1978), *reprinted in* 1978 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 5787, 5851; H.R. Rep. No. 95-595, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. 354 (1977), *reprinted in* 1978 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 5963, 6310 (stating that Section 502(e) “prevents competition between a creditor and its guarantor for the limited proceeds in the estate”); *Fine Organics Corp. v. Hexcel Corp. (In re Hexcel Corp.)*, 174 B.R. 807, 811 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 1994) (“The legislative history surrounding the enactment of 11 U.S.C. § 502(e)(1)(B) reveals that § 502(e)(1)(B) was primarily intended to protect the limited assets of a bankruptcy estate from duplicative claims”).

28. The SLV Claims asserted by Wells Fargo, and the TIA Claims asserted by NCCC, are set forth in separate contracts. However, to the extent that the SLV Claims and TIA Claims provide compensation for the same economic consequences (the effect of a triggering

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<sup>7</sup> Although the bankruptcy court’s decision in *Chateaugay* was vacated by agreement, the *Simetco* court still found the reasoning persuasive with respect to its holding that duplicative claims should be disallowed based on bankruptcy policy. *In re Simetco, Inc.*, 1996 WL 651001, at \*3 n.3.

event on the expected economic returns of the Owner Participant and the tax group of which the Owner Participant is a member), they simply represent multiple legal theories upon which the same loss may be recovered. For bankruptcy purposes, a single loss can give rise to only one “right to payment” and only one claim against the debtor, regardless of how many separate contractual theories of recovery may be asserted.

29. In the transactions at issue in this Objection, Leases (and SLV Claims) were assigned to the Indenture Trustee (now Wells Fargo) as security for loans that were made, with the result that TIA Claims and SLV Claims have been asserted by different parties. However, to the extent that the SLV Claims and TIA Claims address the same losses, only one claim may be allowed, and that is true regardless of whether one of the overlapping contract claims was assigned to a different party. The fact that the same loss is addressed in two separate contracts, and the fact that one contract is assigned to an Indenture Trustee while another is retained by the Owner Participant, cannot convert a single right to payment into two separate rights to payment.

**B. The Total Of The “Allowed” TIA Claims And SLV Claims Cannot Exceed The Collective “Right to Payment” Under The Parties’ Contracts**

30. Comair’s maximum payment obligation with respect to the TIA Claims and SLV Claims would be equal, in each relevant transaction, to the amount specified as SLV for that transaction. More specifically, Section 6 of each Indemnity Agreement states that “[i]n the event a Loss occurs and Lessee actually pays the Indemnity... Stipulated Loss Values associated with the Aircraft or with the portion thereof to which such indemnity payment from Lessee relates thereupon... shall be adjusted, upward or downward as the case may be, if and to the extent necessary to reflect such indemnity. . . .” Accordingly, if the Lessee pays any amount under the TIA, the SLV Claim would have to be reduced by that amount. Additionally, Section 4 states that no payment is due for tax-related losses arising from an Event of Loss if “Lessee is required

under the Lease to pay, and shall have paid in full, the Stipulated Loss Value for” the aircraft. Accordingly, the payment of SLV extinguishes the TIA Claim, and the total payment obligation cannot exceed the SLV Claim.

31. In bankruptcy, a “claim” is a “right to payment.” *See* 11 U.S.C. § 101. By definition, the total amount of the “allowed” TIA Claims and SLV Claims cannot exceed the collective “right of payment” that the holders of those claims would have had outside of bankruptcy. In the case of the claims that are the subject of this Objection, this means that the collective allowed amount of the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims cannot exceed the SLV that is specified for each transaction.

32. If this Court were to allow both the NCCC Claims and the Wells Fargo Claims, without adjustment for the overlaps among them, then (a) the allowed claims would exceed the collective “right of payment” that the claimants have, and (b) the claimants would receive a higher percentage recovery with respect to their “right of payment” than other creditors would receive. An example helps to illustrate this:

(a) Assume, for purposes of illustration, that the required SLV payment in a given transaction were \$100, of which \$75 represented payment of outstanding debt and \$25 represented compensation to the Owner Participant for its anticipated actual losses.

(b) Assume also that Comair’s distributions to unsecured creditors (in bankruptcy) would be equal to 60% of creditors’ claims.

(c) Outside of bankruptcy, if Comair satisfied the \$100 SLV obligation, then (i) \$75 would be used to repay lenders, (ii) the remaining \$25 would be paid to the Owner Participant to cover its losses, and (iii) the TIA Claim would be extinguished. In that case, Comair’s total out-of-bankruptcy payment obligation – or the collective “right of

payment” possessed by the Indenture Trustee and the Owner Participant – would be \$100.

(d) In bankruptcy, the collective “claims” asserted by the Indenture Trustee and the Owner Participant similarly should be equal to \$100 – the amount of the collective “right to payment” that they would have outside of bankruptcy.

(e) If the Court were instead to allow an SLV Claim in the amount of \$100, and also to allow a TIA Claim in the amount of \$25, then the total of the allowed claims would not reflect the actual “right of payment” that those claimants possess. Instead, the allowed claims would equal \$125, compared to a collective “right of payment” of only \$100.

(f) Similarly, if the Court were to allow both the SLV Claim and the TIA Claim, Comair would then distribute a total of \$75 with respect to those two claims (60% times \$125). That would mean a distribution of 75% with respect to an out-of-bankruptcy payment obligation of \$100, or a recovery of 75% – compared to a recovery by other unsecured creditors of only 60%.

As the courts have consistently found, such an inequitable distribution would be entirely “inconsistent with the letter and spirit of Title 11.” *See Finley*, 160 B.R. at 894.

33. In light of the fact that the NCCC Claims overlap with the Wells Fargo Claims, Comair and the Committee submit that the total allowable amount for the claims cannot exceed the amount of the SLV Claim asserted by Wells Fargo for each transaction.

**C. The NCCC Claims And The Wells Fargo Claims Should Be Adjusted To Eliminate Overlaps**

34. In the transactions covered by this Objection, the parties’ agreements make clear that the TIA Claims and SLV Claims must be adjusted to take account of each other. If an

amount has been paid under the tax indemnity agreement, Section 6 of the Indemnity Agreement requires that SLV be reduced. If the lessee pays SLV, Section 4 of each tax indemnity agreement provides that the tax indemnity claim is extinguished.

35. The parties' agreements are less clear, however, in defining which agreement should take priority over the other. On the one hand, the documents make clear that the rights to collect Stipulated Loss Value have been assigned to the Indenture Trustee. On the other hand, the documents also state that the Owner Participant retained the TIA Claims and that those claims are not part of the trust estate held by indenture trustee. Since the TIA Claims and the SLV Claims overlap with each other, those provisions simply are in conflict with each other.

36. Comair and the Committee request that the Court eliminate the overlaps and duplication among the TIA Claims and the SLV Claims in such manner as the Court deems just based on the underlying circumstances and equities. In any event, Comair and the Committee submit that an Order must be entered that ensures that the total of the allowed TIA Claims and SLV Claims for each transaction does not exceed the SLV that is specified for that transaction.

#### **Procedure for Responses to Objection**

37. Any party wishing to oppose the relief requested herein must file a response in accordance with the Court's Order Establishing Procedures for Claims Objections entered October 12, 2006, docket number 3381 (the "**Claims Objection Procedures Order**"), a copy of which is available at no charge on the Debtors' Case Information Website (located at [www.deltadocket.com](http://www.deltadocket.com)). In the event a party does not wish to oppose the relief requested herein, it is not necessary for such party to file any response with the Court, notify Comair and the Committee or their counsel or undertake any further action.

38. The deadline to file a response to this Objection is noted on the cover page hereof. Consistent with the Claims Objection Procedures Order, no response shall be accepted or

considered unless, prior to such deadline, it is filed with the Court, 300 Quarropas Street, White Plains, New York 10601 and actually received by (a) counsel to the Debtors, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, 919 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attn: Michael E. Wiles, and (b) the attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, 590 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022, attn: David H. Botter, Esq. In addition, as set forth in the Claims Objection Procedures Order, no response shall be accepted or considered by the Court unless it includes, among other things, the following:

- (a) an appropriate caption, including the title and date of the objection to which the response is directed;
- (b) the name of the claimant, the claim number of the proof of claim (as identified on the claims register maintained on the Debtors' case information website (located at *www.deltadocket.com*)) and a description of the basis for the amount of the proof of claim;
- (c) a concise statement setting forth the reasons why the Court should not sustain the objection, including, but not limited to, the specific factual and legal bases upon which the claimant relies in opposing the objection;
- (d) copies of any documentation and other evidence upon which the claimant will rely in opposing the objection at a hearing;<sup>8</sup>
- (e) sworn declarations of persons with personal knowledge of any new facts relied upon to support the response;<sup>9</sup> and

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<sup>8</sup> If the claimant cannot timely provide such documentation and other evidence, the claimant is required to provide a detailed explanation in the response as to why it was not possible to timely provide such documentation and other evidence.

(f) the name, address, telephone number and facsimile number of a person authorized to reconcile, settle or otherwise resolve the claim on the claimant's behalf.

39. A failure by the Claimant to file a response in such manner shall be deemed a waiver by the Claimant of all rights to respond to this Objection and consent by the Claimant to the relief requested in this Objection with respect to the Claim.

40. Pursuant to the Claims Objection Procedures Order, if a proper and timely response with respect to the Claim is not filed and served in compliance with the procedures specified therein, the Court may sustain this Objection with regard to the Claim without further notice or a hearing.

41. If the relief requested herein is granted, Bankruptcy Services, LLC, as the Debtors' authorized claims agent, will be authorized and directed to amend the claims register accordingly.

#### **Service of Notice**

42. Comair and the Committee have served notice of this Objection consistent with the procedures set forth in the Claims Objection Procedures Order. In addition, consistent with the procedures described in the Court's Order Approving Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures entered October 6, 2005 (the "**Case Management Order**"), Comair and the Committee have served notice of this Objection on (a) the Core Parties (as that term is defined in the Case Management Order) and (b) the Non-ECF Service Parties (as that term is defined in the Case Management Order).

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<sup>9</sup> If the claimant cannot timely provide such declarations, the claimant is required to provide a detailed explanation in the response as to why it was not possible to timely submit such declarations.

**Relief Requested**

43. For the foregoing reasons, Comair and the Committee respectfully request (a) a determination that only one claim be allowed for a single tax-related loss in each transaction; (b) the disallowance and/or reduction of the NCCC Claims and/or the Wells Fargo Claims to eliminate the overlaps among them; and (c) such other and further relief as is deemed just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
April 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON LLP

/s/ Michael E. Wiles

/s/ Michael E. Wiles

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