



For immediate release

**PROPOSED US PASSENGER LEVY WOULD DECREASE COMPETITIVENESS OF
CANADIAN AIR TRAVEL INDUSTRY WARNS CANADA’S LARGEST AIRLINES**

OTTAWA, February 17, 2011 – The National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC) today expressed concern about the proposed passenger inspection fee contained in the 2012 draft U.S. federal budget.

While the NACC awaits further details of the proposal, member airlines are fundamentally opposed to any additional fees or taxes that serve as a disincentive to air travel.

“An additional tax on air travellers will decrease the ability of Canadian airlines to compete with low cost operations at border airports, an alarming trend outlined in recent studies by the NACC, the National Travel and Tourism Coalition and the Hotel Association of Canada” said NACC President George Petsikas. “Indeed, the announcement of an additional cost advantage for border facilities should make clear the need to reduce the commercial aviation cost structure in Canada.”

The National Airlines Council of Canada is a trade association founded by Canada’s largest commercial airlines in order to ensure safe, sustainable and competitive air travel for Canadian consumers.

Reports by the NACC and National Travel and Tourism Coalition, can be accessed on the NACC Website at www.airlinecouncil.ca.

The Hotel Association of Canada (HAC) report is posted on the HAC Website at www.hotelassociation.ca.

- 30 -

For more information please contact:

Brigitte Hébert
National Airlines Council of Canada
Tel.: 613-231-7223
bhebert@airlinecouncil.ca

Debra Williams
National Airlines Council of Canada
Tel.: 519-457-8071