FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kate Hanni, 707-337-0328, kate@flyersrigfhts.org

BAG HUMBUG!!
AIRLINES PLAY SCROOGE WITH FEES
COALITION FOR AIRLINE PASSENGERS DEMANDS TRANSPARENCY OF FEES

NAPA, Calif., Nov. 26, 2012 - This holiday season the carriers have a gift for you; a myriad of hidden fees waiting for you upon arrival at the airport. These fees are in addition to other charges you paid at the time of ticket purchase and were entirely concealed from your view!

Two pro-consumer groups, FlyersRights.org and Business Travel Coalition (BTC), along with dozens of corporations and national consumer groups, have joined forces to demand the Department of Transportation (DOT) support restoring true comparison shopping for airline consumers.

Today kicks off a 30-day public awareness campaign, demanding transparency in airline ticketing and revealing all hidden fees, with the goal of true air travel comparison shopping.

At a time of slow economic recovery, The flying public is being financially damaged by the airlines’ refusal to post the hidden ancillary fees next to the base fares so that flyers can compare apples to apples when comparison shopping for air fares.

By December 25, FlyersRights and BTC aim to have 25,000 signatures, thereby pressuring The White House to formally review this request and provide a public response.

The public is called upon to sign a White House “WE the People” petition and join the campaign to urge the Administration to require airlines to enact true comparison shopping for consumers.
"It's outrageous," said Kate Hanni, Executive Director of FlyersRights.org, "these are deceptive pricing tactics that the airlines use to give the flyer the illusion of a lower fare. Airlines use hidden ancillary charges as an indirect way to raise fares in a manner which makes it impossible to predict the total price of a ticket." Ms. Hanni continued, "Business travelers who have to account for their travel costs have to aggregate all of their receipts in order to get reimbursed, and it's just impossible for them to handle. The hidden fees can raise the cost of a ticket by up to 40%!"

FlyersRights.org is the largest non-profit airline passengers rights group in the world; responsible for the 3 hour Tarmac Delay rule and the strongest force behind the increase in bumping compensation and other issues that benefit consumers. For more info: www.flyersrights.org or kate@flyersrights.org.

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