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AMFA Questions Virgin America's Ownership Status *Petition in Support of DOT Inquiry Submitted*

Working with Alaska Airlines and the Air Line Pilots Association, AMFA has petitioned the DOT to examine exactly who owns Virgin America, and whether or not that ownership is legal. If it is discovered that more than 25% of the carrier is owned by foreign interests, Virgin America would be in violation of the FAA's foreign ownership rules and thus could be forced to suspend operations.

The petition for an investigation comes after Virgin America, at the requirement of the DOT, was forced to reveal its financial statements, which suggested that the actual control of Virgin America was, at the least, unclear. Under the current arrangement, two private U.S. investment groups own 75% of the carrier, while Sir Richard Branson owns 25%, the maximum foreign interest allowable by law.

AMFA and ALPA have both submitted official petitions in support of Alaska Airlines' petition for inquiry. Furthermore, AMFA will be working with both Alaska and ALPA on a Congressional letter to be sent to DOT Secretary Ray LaHood, urging him to look into the issue.