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SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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Southwest Pilots Support the Efforts of WestJet Pilots to Unionize

Leadership in Calgary to discuss union history and success

DALLAS – As the pilots of WestJet continue their efforts to achieve legally certified representation, the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA) is offering support to the WestJet Professional Pilots Association (WPPA) to bring legal, independent and accountable representation to the pilots of WestJet. Today, SWAPA 2nd Vice President Capt. Tom Gasparolo is in Calgary to discuss with WestJet pilots how SWAPA, through independent union representation, has worked to negotiate industry-leading contracts and protect the careers of its members.

"In this ever-changing airline industry it is paramount to have a recognized collective bargaining agent working on your behalf to protect your career and provide the ability to negotiate for the collective interests of each member on a pilot seniority list," said SWAPA 2nd Vice President Capt. Tom Gasparolo. "We know this first-hand as we continue to fight for our members through tenuous negotiations that will net our pilots a contract comparable to our peers. The pilots of WestJet deserve that same ability."

WestJet pilots are currently working under a new agreement signed in December after overwhelmingly rejecting an original tentative agreement last fall that was supported by WestJet management and leadership of the current non-union pilot representation group.

"Ultimately, the choice is up to the pilots of WestJet," continued Capt. Gasparolo. "SWAPA is simply here to support the unionizing efforts and provide sound information on why an independent pilot union has been successful for the pilots of Southwest Airlines for the previous 38 years."

Located in Dallas, Texas, the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee organization representing the more than 8,000 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA works to provide a secure and rewarding career for Southwest pilots and their families through negotiating contracts, defending contractual rights and actively promoting professionalism and safety. For more information on the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association, visit www.swapa.org.

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