

TESTIMONIAL

Yashwant S Bhave

Chairman

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority

Empowering and Advocating Consumer Interests

CUTS will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary to address its future. This initiative shows the internal dynamism of CUTS under Mehta's able leadership. It also shows that instead of resting on its past laurels (which in themselves are innumerable) CUTS wants to reinvent itself along the lines of new challenges in new situations.

I have had the good fortune to be able to associate with the working of CUTS since my days in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs as its Secretary where the focus of the Ministry was on Consumer Welfare. I have been greatly benefited by the views expressed by Mehta and CUTS in discharge of my duties and functions. I continued this association in my present assignment as Chairman of Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) and had no hesitation in associating CUTS as a representative body of advocating consumer interests, as an important stakeholder in our work of tariff determination.

During the past seven years of my association with CUTS, I have seen it growing from strength to strength. It has also not lost its focus on the interests of the consumers. I have found its research of sterling quality. During the Authority's deliberations one has noticed that a large number of advocacy groups and consulting organisations tend to highlight only the interests of the relevant group, a foible that CUTS have been able to scrupulously avoid. Even so, in the limited area of regulatory approach and economic regulation, CUTS can be of great help and be a reference point if it has an ongoing research for public dissemination on different strands of opinion in academic literature given its vast reach and accumulated body of knowledge in this subject.

I wish you and CUTS a very bright and meaningful future.