

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For more than two years, U.S. international airlines and their American workers have raised concerns about unfair competition from subsidized, state-owned airlines in Qatar and the UAE. Unfortunately, the governments of both countries and the airlines in question – Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, and Emirates Airline – rebuffed the Obama Administration’s efforts to address the issue, choosing instead to increase their subsidies and continue pushing U.S. airlines off international routes. Emirates Airline took the latest step on the third day of your presidency, when it announced that it will begin flying roundtrip between Athens, Greece and Newark, New Jersey next month. While we support expanding flight options and greater connectivity, we do not support subsidy-enabled flights that cost American jobs and could violate U.S. trade agreements.

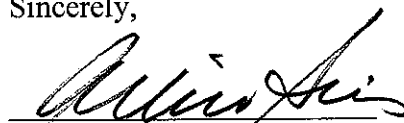
Like you, we believe that our trade agreements must be enforced so that foreign governments understand that they can’t break the rules. The Gulf carriers have used more than \$50 billion in subsidies to expand their services at rates that far outpace market demand, which violates the spirit of the Open Skies agreements with the United States. We ask that you take firm action against these subsidies.

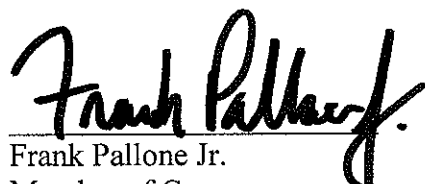
The U.S. aviation industry contributes more than 5% to our GDP and plays a critical role in our national security. Subsidized competition will result in the loss of good middle-class jobs. For every long-haul route lost or foregone as a result of subsidized Gulf carrier competition, more than 1,500 American jobs are lost. Erosion of U.S. airline capacity will also negatively impact the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program, likely resulting in logistical issues for the Department of Defense as their ability to position military assets around the world in the safest and most efficient manner available is compromised.


Prior to your election, nearly 300 bipartisan members of Congress voiced our concern with the subsidies these airlines receive. It is imperative that your Administration take quick and decisive action to defend U.S. interests abroad and ensure that U.S. airlines and their American workers have a fair and equal opportunity to compete. Further, it would be prudent for your Administration to bar the commencement of the Athens to Newark flight until it has had the opportunity to negotiate a meaningful resolution which addresses the ongoing subsidies provided


by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar to their flagged carriers. Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.


Sincerely,

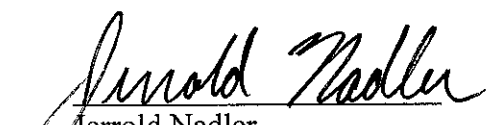

Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

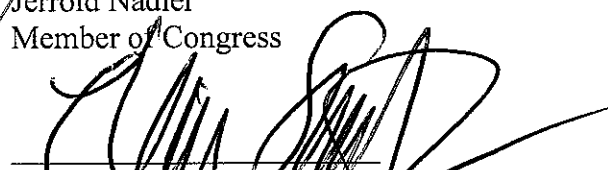

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

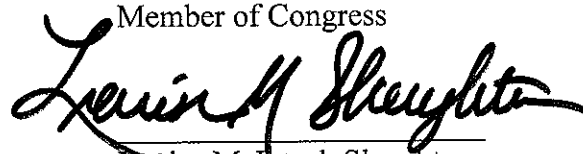

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

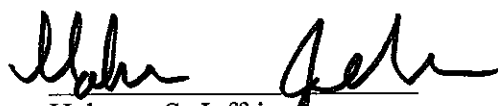

Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

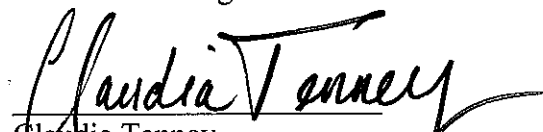

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

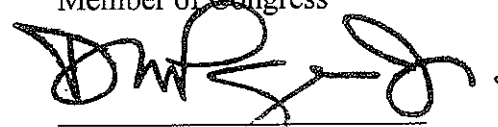

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

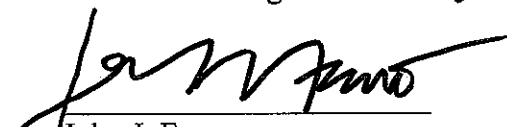

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress

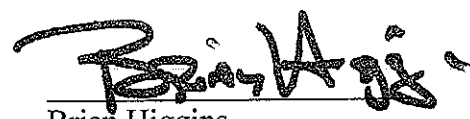

Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress


Chris Collins
Member of Congress


Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

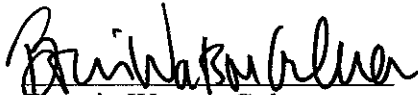

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


John J. Faso
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



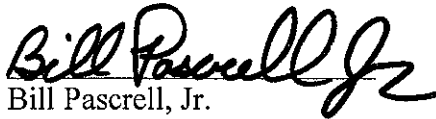
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress




Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



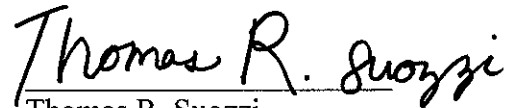
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



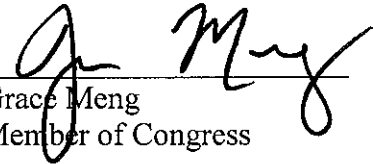
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress