

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Earlier this year, we joined with 256 of our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in sending a letter to the Department of Transportation urging timely consultations with the governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to address the subsidized capacity that their state-owned airlines – Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, and Emirates – are deploying to the United States, in direct violation of U.S. Open Skies policy.

As the public comment period is now officially closed, it is time for your agency to swiftly address these trade violations. Therefore, we write today to formally request a meeting with you to discuss the threats posed by the subsidized Gulf carriers to the U.S. airline industry and to U.S. workers' jobs.

Contrary to the goals of Open Skies policy, Qatar, Emirates and Etihad airlines have received \$42 billion in subsidies and unfair benefits from their governments, flouting the good faith inherent in these international treaties and undermining the principles of open competition. Through the docket submission process, additional evidence has surfaced that the Gulf carriers' entry into the United States is causing significant harm to the U.S. aviation industry and the hundreds of thousands of workers it supports. Instead of stimulating demand, the subsidies and unfair benefits are allowing the Gulf carriers to take away passengers from domestic carriers, hurting service to cities across the country.

Failure to confront these actions will set a dangerous precedent for future trade agreements with other nations and will lead to significant job losses and cuts in airline service in the United States.

It is our hope that a meeting with you will allow for a better understanding of Congress's concerns and the timely need for consultations with Qatar and the UAE, as provided for in the bilateral aviation agreements.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Rep. Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress


Rep. Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Rep. Tom Emmer
Member of Congress