

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Chao:

We write to request that your Departments ensure that all airlines are competing on a level playing field by reviewing potential violations of Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).


Since 2004, Qatar and the UAE have reportedly provided more than \$50 billion to their state-owned airlines. These subsidies allow Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways to operate without regard to market forces. The Gulf carriers have introduced excess capacity on international routes, increasingly targeting services between the United States and cities outside their home countries. This makes it more difficult for U.S. airlines to compete internationally.

We believe these actions are inconsistent with the countries' bilateral Open Skies agreements with the United States. They undermine the U.S. commitment to protecting fair and equal market access for U.S. airlines.

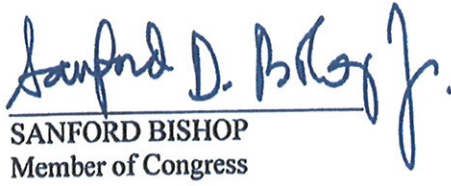
In Georgia, commercial aviation sustains more than 114,000 jobs and drives more than \$17 billion in economic activity. We understand that employment and air service throughout our state could be harmed with additional subsidized routes. We are also concerned that future long-haul route losses to subsidized Gulf carrier competition would cost more than 1,500 American jobs.

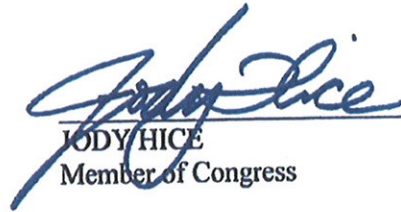
As always, we thank you for your service and your consideration of our views.

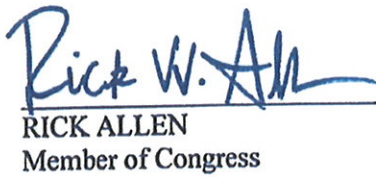
Sincerely,


ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress

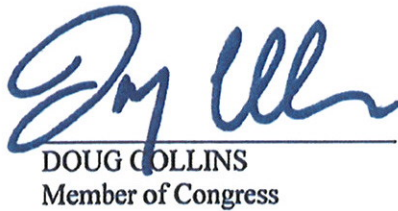

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress


SANFORD BISHOP
Member of Congress

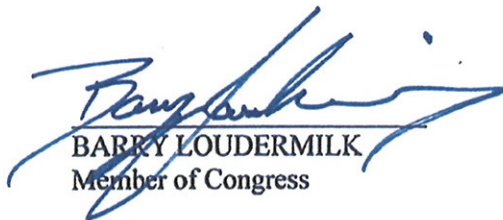

JODY HICE
Member of Congress


RICK ALLEN
Member of Congress


DREW FERGUSON
Member of Congress

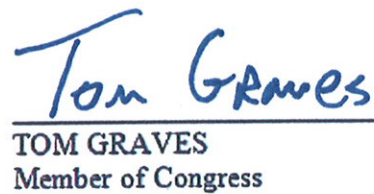

DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress

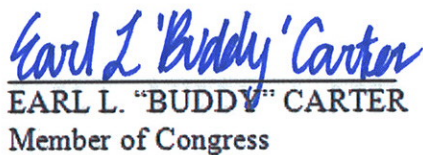

DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress


BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress


AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress


HANK JOHNSON
Member of Congress


TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress


EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress