

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 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

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Tillerson, Chao, and Ross:

We are writing on behalf of the more than 1,000 U.S. airline employees in Wisconsin as well as the thousands of jobs and communities across our State sustained by U.S. aviation.

Since 1992, the United States has entered into Open Skies agreements with 120 countries. These bilateral aviation trade agreements allow for market principles rather than government regulation to provide access to destinations at home and abroad and are premised on fair and equal competition. The Open Skies policy has been a success, with two notable exceptions – Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. These countries have provided more than \$50 billion in subsidies to their state-owned airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways. These subsidies undermine the principle behind the Open Skies policy by creating market distortions and hamper the ability of U.S. airlines and their workers to compete.

Leveraging these subsidies, the Gulf carriers have launched excess capacity on international routes and taken significant market share from U.S. airlines. Without strict enforcement of our aviation trade agreements, these heavily subsidized carriers will continue to introduce new routes, ultimately weakening the American aviation industry and hurting Wisconsin workers and communities.

Every long-haul international route lost to the subsidized Gulf carriers costs more than 1,500 American jobs and jeopardizes service to markets throughout the country, including in Wisconsin. We cannot afford to continue to allow these subsidies to harm American workers. We respectfully ask that you enforce the Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the UAE and ensure that there is a fair and equal opportunity for U.S. airlines and aviation workers to compete.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

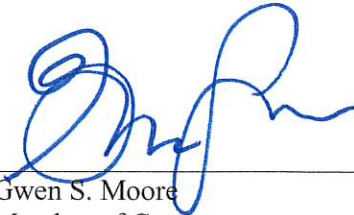
  
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Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress

  
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



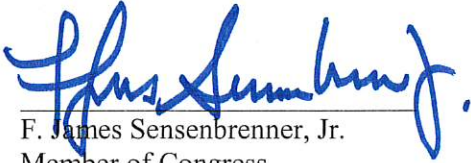
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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress