

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 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:

The aviation industry is a pillar of Colorado's economy, sustaining a strong tourism sector and bringing thousands of business and leisure visitors to Colorado every year. Commercial aviation generates more than \$10 billion in economic activity per year in Colorado, and 7.5 percent of jobs in the state are aviation related – including 7,500 jobs that are sustained by our nation's largest airlines.

We are increasingly concerned, however, that these jobs are at risk. Since 2004, reports show the governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have funneled over \$50 billion in government subsidies to their state-owned airlines: Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways. Fueled by subsidies, these carriers have rapidly expanded their operations into the United States, dumping excess capacity on several international routes and pushing American carriers out of these markets. For example, the Gulf carriers currently operate as many as 36 flights a day to the United States – up from 12 flights a day just five years ago – while no U.S. carrier flies into Qatar or the UAE.

The subsidies these airlines receive are inconsistent with the Open Skies agreements, which both Qatar and the UAE signed over 15 years ago. These bilateral trade agreements were designed to promote fairness in the market without government intervention. By failing to enforce our trade agreements, we are jeopardizing thousands of middle-class jobs and the long-term interests of American aviation.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and ask you stand for American workers and enforce our Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the UAE. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress




Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress