

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 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 Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretaries Tillerson, Chao and Ross:

We write to you regarding the Open Skies agreements between the U.S., Qatar, and United Arab Emirates. We are concerned by the potential payments made by the governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to their state-owned airlines. If true, these subsidies would defy the Open Skies agreements the U.S. signed with each of these countries and threaten to destabilize and fundamentally change the face of aviation in America.

Like the rest of our country, Indiana relies on a strong U.S. aviation industry. Commercial aviation drives more than \$1 billion in economic activity and sustains more than 12,000 jobs throughout our state. We are concerned that the more than \$50 billion in subsidies provided by the governments of Qatar and UAE to Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways, and Qatar Airways, pose a significant threat to those jobs.

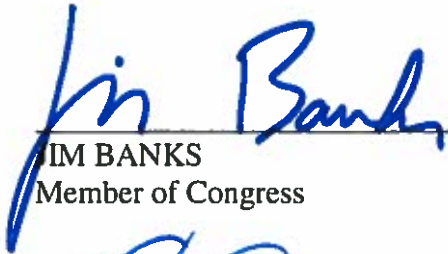
U.S. carriers and U.S. airline employees deserve to be able to compete on a fair and equal playing field, but the actions of these carriers are forcing U.S. airlines out of some markets. If this continues, U.S. airlines may not be able to serve as many small- and medium-sized communities, like the ones in my state. Furthermore, it is estimated that approximately 1,500 jobs are lost for every long-haul international route picked up by the Gulf carriers. These are good-paying jobs that Americans depend on and if the agreement is being adhered to faithfully, should be maintained.

The bilateral Open Skies agreements that the U.S. has signed are meant to promote fair competition and protect against trade violations such as government-funded subsidies. And while the vast majority of our country's Open Skies agreements work well, it is clear that the agreements with Qatar and the UAE must be enforced before more international routes are lost, and jobs and service are jeopardized.

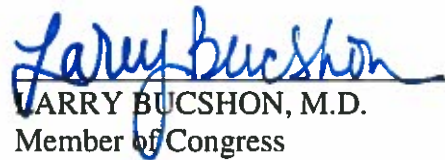
agreements with Qatar and the UAE must be enforced before more international routes are lost, and jobs and service are jeopardized.

I urge you to act to enforce these Open Skies agreements and protect American jobs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



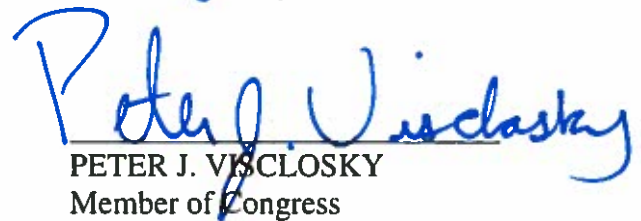
JIM BANKS
Member of Congress



LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.
Member of Congress



ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress



PETER J. VISCLOSKY
Member of Congress



JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress