



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

January 29, 2018

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

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

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Chao:

I join a number of my fellow governors in voicing my concern that the subsidies Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are providing to their state-owned airlines pose a threat to the U.S. aviation industry and American jobs.

These subsidies allow the three state-owned Gulf carriers -- Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, and Emirates Airlines -- to dramatically increase their carrying capacity while artificially lowering prices. These changes are forcing U.S. carriers to abandon international routes and putting U.S. aviation jobs at risk.

Since 2004, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, and Emirates Airlines have received over \$50 billion in government subsidies and other benefits from Qatar and the UAE. In direct violation of the rules negotiated by the United States with these nations in the Open Skies agreements, these government subsidies make it impossible for U.S. carriers to compete for international routes because of the market distortions that they create. Experts estimate that for every international roundtrip flight dropped by a U.S. airline, over 1,500 American jobs are lost.

A number of U.S. based carriers service Mississippi through our commercial airports, creating jobs and supporting local businesses that are critical to our state's economy. We welcome international carriers and the travelers they bring to Mississippi. However, international carriers should play by the same rules as U.S. carriers and compete fairly and an open marketplace.

The United States entered into the Open Skies agreements to ensure that U.S. airlines would receive fair and equal treatment. I urge you to take meaningful action to enforce these agreements and restore a level playing field for our US. international carriers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil Bryant
Governor

cc: The Honorable Mike Pence

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI • OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 139 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205 • TELEPHONE: (601) 359-3150 • FAX: (601) 359-3741 • www.governorbryant.com



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

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