

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 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:

In the State of Michigan, commercial aviation sustains more than 36,000 jobs and drives more than \$5.6 billion in economic activity. From Detroit to Grand Rapids to Marquette, our aviation system supports not only jobs in the industry but is the economic driver for communities across the state.

That is why we are deeply concerned about the potential impacts of the subsidies that the Governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have provided to their state-owned airlines. These subsidies give three state-owned carriers, Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways – a stark competitive advantage at the expense of the U.S. airlines' international networks and American jobs. Each long-haul route lost as a result of subsidized Gulf carrier competition costs more than 1,500 American jobs.

Since 2004, the Gulf nations of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have provided over \$50 billion in subsidies to their state-owned airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways. The subsidies are inconsistent with the countries' bilateral Open Skies agreements with the United States and are denying U.S. airlines a fair and equal opportunity to compete. They are also inconsistent with U.S. open skies policy, which is designed to eliminate government market distortions, including subsidies.

The Gulf carriers are increasingly targeting routes between the United States and cities outside of their home countries. Emirates recently launched a new nonstop flight between New York City and Athens, Greece that would not be viable without subsidies. If additional subsidized routes continue to be added it will begin to negatively impact air service and employment throughout our state.

We strongly support the U.S. Open Skies program and the negotiation of additional Open Skies agreements. However, the agreements must be enforced so that U.S. aviation workers have a level playing field. U.S. airlines and their employees should have a fair and equal opportunity to compete and we urge your immediate attention to this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

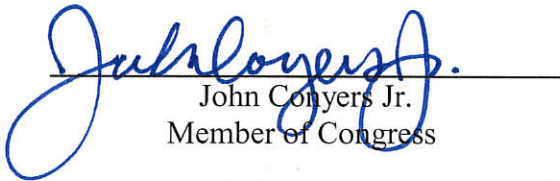
Sincerely,



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



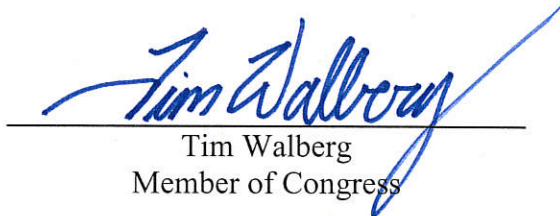
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



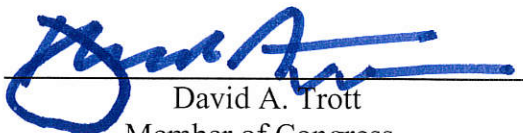
Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



David A. Trott
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress