

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 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,

As you know, Ohio has a proud history in aviation. From the home of the Wright brothers in Dayton, to the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio represents the innovation and determination that are hallmarks of the American aviation industry. Thousands of individuals are employed by U.S. airlines in Ohio, and commercial aviation generates more than \$3.5 billion in economic activity.

We are concerned these jobs are at risk due to the subsidized expansion of three state-owned airlines: Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways. The governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have provided these carriers with massive subsidies – more than \$50 billion since 2004. These subsidies give the Gulf carriers a stark competitive advantage at the expense of the U.S. airlines' domestic and international networks, and also American jobs. Each long-haul route lost as a result of subsidized Gulf carrier competition causes the displacement of over 1,500 American jobs.

Open Skies policy is based on ensuring fair and equal competition and markets governed by demand, not government interference. The subsidies provided by Qatar and UAE to their state-owned airlines deny U.S. airlines an equal opportunity to compete and we believe violate our Open Skies agreements.

American trade agreements must work for American workers. If left unaddressed, the subsidies could jeopardize aviation in our state, and we ask your enforcement of our Open Skies agreements to ensure the future of aviation in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



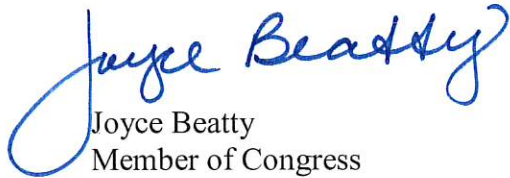
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



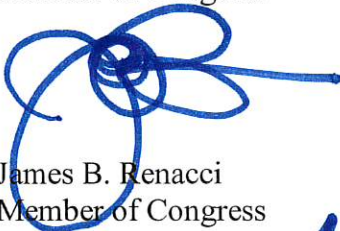
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



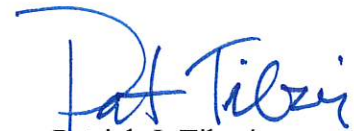
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



James B. Renacci
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress