

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Foxx and Secretary Kerry:

We write to urge you to reinforce, in the upcoming informal discussions with the Government of Japan, the Administration's position that the long-sought opening of Tokyo's Haneda Airport must be consistent with true Open Skies principles and will not unfairly disadvantage any U.S. air carriers serving Japan.

As you know, the U.S. and Japan entered into an "Open Skies" agreement in 2010, but access to Tokyo's Haneda airport remains extremely restricted. While enough capacity exists at Haneda to serve all U.S. carrier needs, the Government of Japan has insisted on a limited opening designed to benefit Japanese airlines. It is imperative that the U.S. government continues its policy of refusing to enter into formal Haneda negotiations with Japan until the Japanese government makes enough Haneda capacity available so all U.S. carriers can compete on a level playing field with Japan's airlines.

Japan's repeated negotiating ploy has been to insist that no further capacity exists at Haneda, followed by inadequate proposals of small, incremental openings of Haneda that would benefit their airlines. For example, in 2010 Japan stated that no more capacity existed at Haneda, which led to a special restrictive annex in the Japan Open Skies Agreement limiting Haneda flying to four roundtrips each for the U.S. and Japan during the night-time. Some U.S. carriers chose not to continue their limited opportunity to serve Haneda with these awarded slots. In 2011, Japan decided to increase international capacity by 40 roundtrips per day, with only 4 roundtrips being offered to the U.S. At that time, Japan again insisted that no further capacity was available. Now a new government study has confirmed the U.S. position that Haneda has significant unused capacity. Yet, Japan is once again offering only an incremental opening of Haneda that would harm our carriers.

Now is not the time for the U.S. government to back down from its repeated insistence on a full opening of Haneda airport. With Prime Minister Abe's goal of increasing tourism to Japan by 10 million people and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the pressure is growing for the Government of Japan to allow full use of Haneda capacity in a way that is fair for all airlines.

We greatly appreciate the administration's strong leadership on this issue, and we urge you to remain consistent in advocating for Japan to adopt an Open Skies policy that creates fair competition and a level playing field for all U.S. carriers. As always, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns on this important issue.

Sincerely,


Member of Congress

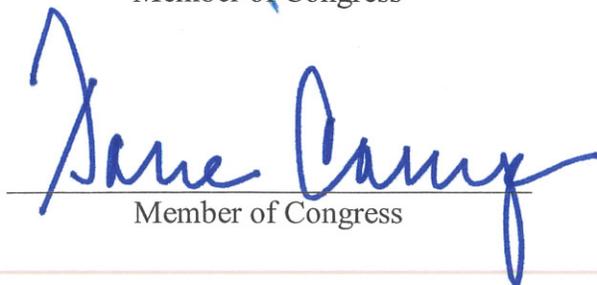

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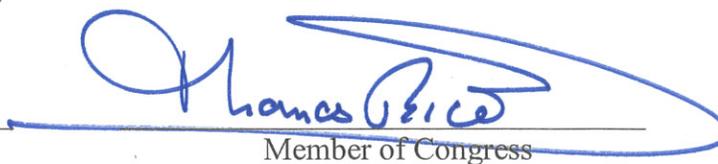

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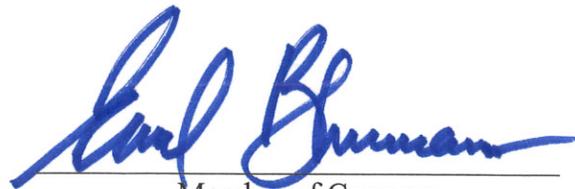
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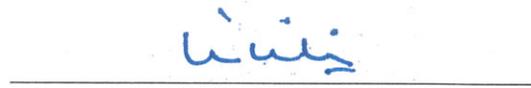

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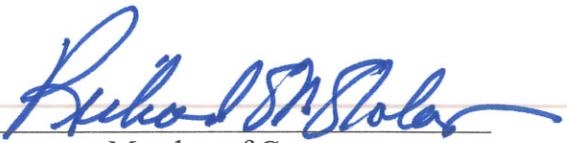

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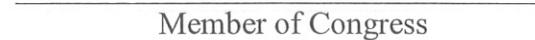

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September 12, 2014**

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