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,

[Signatures]

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress  

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress  

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress  

Lynnellen A. Nutt  
Member of Congress  

John Conyers  
Member of Congress  

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress  

Paul C. Brown  
Member of Congress  

John Kline  
Member of Congress  

Raul G. Grijalva  
Member of Congress  

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress  

Member of Congress  

Member of Congress
1. The Honorable Candice S. Miller
2. The Honorable John Lewis
3. The Honorable Suzan K. DelBene
4. The Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
5. The Honorable Thomas Massie
6. The Honorable Chris Stewart
7. The Honorable Dave Camp
8. The Honorable Erik Paulsen
9. The Honorable Tom Price
10. The Honorable Kerry L. Bentivolio
11. The Honorable David Scott
12. The Honorable Tom Graves
13. The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
14. The Honorable Phil Gingrey
15. The Honorable Doug Collins
16. The Honorable Dan Benishek
17. The Honorable Austin Scott
18. The Honorable Bill Huizenga
19. The Honorable Mo Brooks
20. The Honorable Sander M. Levin
21. The Honorable Joseph Crowley
22. The Honorable Derek Kilmer
23. The Honorable Tim Ryan
24. The Honorable Gary C. Peters
25. The Honorable Betty McCollum
26. The Honorable Rob Woodall
27. The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
28. The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
29. The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
30. The Honorable Mike Rogers (MI)
31. The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
32. The Honorable Adam Smith
33. The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
34. The Honorable Christopher P. Gibson
35. The Honorable Fred Upton
36. The Honorable John Barrow
37. The Honorable Jim Matheson
38. The Honorable Michael R. Turner
40. The Honorable Gwen Moore
41. The Honorable Keith Ellison
42. The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
43. The Honorable Jack Kingston
44. The Honorable John D. Dingell
45. The Honorable Lynn A. Westmoreland
46. The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
47. The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
48. The Honorable Tim Walberg
49. The Honorable Paul C. Broun
50. The Honorable John Kline
51. The Honorable Richard M. Nolan
52. The Honorable Jason Chaffetz