

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 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:

We write to request that your Departments ensure that all airlines are competing on a level playing field by reviewing potential violations of Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).


Since 2004, Qatar and the UAE have reportedly provided more than \$50 billion to their state-owned airlines. These subsidies allow Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline, and Etihad Airways to operate without regard to market forces. The Gulf carriers have introduced excess capacity on international routes, increasingly targeting services between the United States and cities outside their home countries. This makes it more difficult for U.S. airlines to compete internationally.


We believe these actions are inconsistent with the countries' bilateral Open Skies agreements with the United States. They undermine the U.S. commitment to protecting fair and equal market access for U.S. airlines.

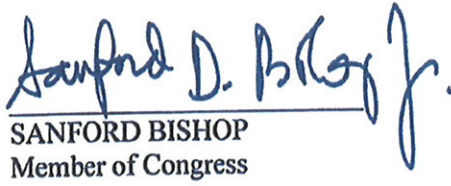
In Georgia, commercial aviation sustains more than 114,000 jobs and drives more than \$17 billion in economic activity. We understand that employment and air service throughout our state could be harmed with additional subsidized routes. We are also concerned that future long-haul route losses to subsidized Gulf carrier competition would cost more than 1,500 American jobs.

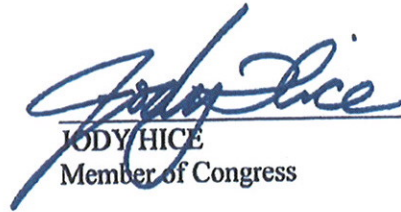
As always, we thank you for your service and your consideration of our views.

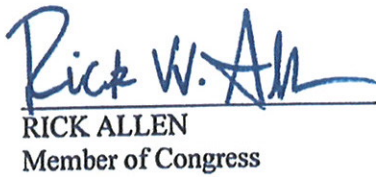
Sincerely,

  
ROB WOODALL  
Member of Congress

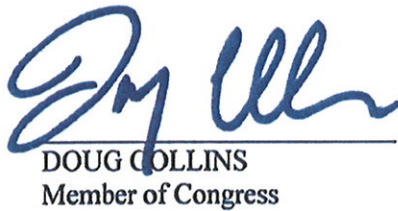
  
JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress

  
SANFORD BISHOP  
Member of Congress

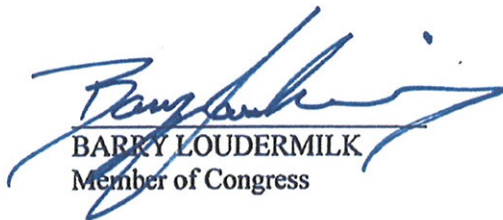
  
JODY HICE  
Member of Congress

  
RICK ALLEN  
Member of Congress

  
DREW FERGUSON  
Member of Congress

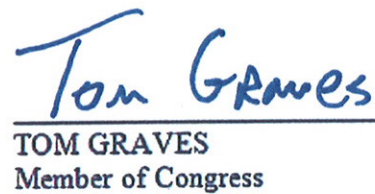
  
DOUG COLLINS  
Member of Congress

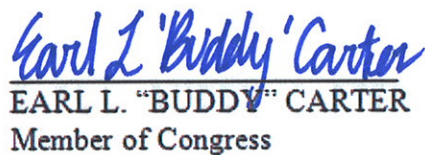
  
DAVID SCOTT  
Member of Congress

  
BARRY LOUDERMILK  
Member of Congress

  
AUSTIN SCOTT  
Member of Congress

  
HANK JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

  
TOM GRAVES  
Member of Congress

  
EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER  
Member of Congress