



Dear Members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors:

At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, you will be considering **Resolution No. 55: “Restoring a Level Playing Field through Open Skies.”** We are writing to you on behalf of our members to urge you to support this resolution because we are deeply concerned about the massive subsidies that Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are providing to their state-owned airlines, and the threat they pose to good-paying jobs and economic growth across the nation.

Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways and Emirates Airline have received \$42 billion dollars in government subsidies and other unfair benefits over the last decade. Those massive subsidies undermine our Open Skies agreements and distort the international aviation market. Resolution 55 calls on the federal government to enforce Open Skies policy by opening consultations with Qatar and the UAE in order to address the government subsidization of the Gulf carriers.

Not only are the Gulf carriers backed by government subsidies, they do not provide basic labor rights, such as freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, to their employees because trade unions are illegal in both Qatar and the UAE. The Gulf carriers’ subsidies and other unfair government benefits have provided them with an enormous artificial cost advantage and allowed them to flood the U.S. market with excess capacity, threatening the U.S. airline industry, U.S. jobs, and the U.S. economy.

If this situation is allowed to continue, it will ultimately lead to service cuts at the U.S. airlines and job losses throughout the country.

Because the Gulf carriers’ services are simply displacing U.S. airline or other foreign airline services, the Gulf carriers’ expansion into the U.S. is not generating U.S. jobs, it is costing U.S. jobs. A U.S. airline flight directly supports nearly eight times as many airline industry jobs in the U.S. as a Gulf carrier flight.

Every daily round-trip flight that is lost to Qatar, Etihad or Emirates results in an average net loss of more than 800 jobs – pilots, flight attendants, maintenance workers, baggage handlers, ticket agents, and many others both inside and outside the airline industry.

The large U.S. network carriers currently serve 123 destinations in the lower 48-U.S. states, most of which are small and medium sized communities whose connectivity to the national and global aviation system is at risk. These airports provide a critical infrastructure and give businesses reason to locate there and hire local employees. Even the loss of just one flight a day will hurt travelers, local jobs, and the local economy.

On behalf of our members, we urge you to support Resolution 55 and send a clear message to the U.S. government, requesting that it enter into consultations with Qatar and the UAE to address unfair competition. America's aviation workers can compete against anyone in the world, so please pass this resolution to help ensure the competition is fair.

Sincerely,

David P. Bourne, Director, Airline Division, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Captain Tim Canoll, President, Air Line Pilots Association, International

Laura Glading, Association of Professional Flight Attendants National President

Captain Paul Jackson, President, Southwest Airlines Pilots Association

Sara Nelson, President, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO

Chris Shelton, President, Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO

Captain Keith Wilson, President, Allied Pilots Association