

EMBARGOED 6AM 3.16.17



For Immediate Release

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**Open Letter to President Trump from U.S. Airlines and Unions Asks
Administration to Act Now to Protect 1.2 Million American Jobs**
*Print and Television Advertisements Show Threat of Trade Cheating and Unfair
Competition*

WASHINGTON, DC (March 16, 2017) – Today, the Partnership for Open & Fair Skies, a coalition of leading U.S. airlines and unions, sent an open letter to President Trump and his administration in the *New York Times* and the *New York Post*, urging the administration to address trade violations by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar that threaten 1.2 million American jobs. A separate advertisement began running on cable.

The advertisements come on the heels of Emirates' new, year-round flight from Athens, Greece to Newark, New Jersey. U.S. aviation workers rallied at Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday to protest the flight for violating an important international agreement with the United States.

The U.S. has 120 Open Skies agreements with countries around the world that, when enforced, promote economic growth and benefits for airlines, workers and passengers. The UAE and Qatar have instead violated their agreements with the U.S. by pumping over \$50 billion in documented subsidies to their state-owned carriers – Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways. These massive subsidies are more than twice that received by Airbus, which the U.S. successfully challenged in the largest WTO subsidy case to date, and undermine fair competition in the global aviation market.

“The billions of dollars in illegal Gulf carrier subsidies are brazen violations of our Open Skies agreements and a perfect example of the type of trade cheating that President Trump abhors,” said Jill Zuckman, chief spokesperson for the Partnership for Open & Fair Skies. “There are 1.2 million quality American jobs that are being threatened every day by Emirates, Etihad and Qatar airlines. We are respectfully looking to President Trump and his administration for help.” The print ads, which can be seen below, will run in *The New York Times* and *New York Post* featuring a letter to President Trump signed by: American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, the Air Line Pilots Association, the Allied Pilots Association, the Southwest Airlines Pilots’ Association, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants and the Association of

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Flight Attendants-CWA. The six-figure television ad buy, which can be seen online [here](#), will run for the next three weeks.

Enforce our trade deals

PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS

March 16, 2017

Dear President Trump,

On Sunday, Emirates launched its maiden flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Athens, Greece.

This flight represents a real and growing threat to the 10 million American jobs that rely on the U.S. aviation industry, as well as U.S. airlines' ability to provide international service. That's because the Emirates flight from Newark to Athens is fueled by **billions of dollars in government subsidies** from the United Arab Emirates. These subsidies allow carriers like Emirates to fly some of the biggest planes on the planet at the lowest fares, regardless of whether they have enough seats filled to make a profit. It hurts American customers, markets and, most importantly, middle-class workers.

Every time a U.S. carrier is pushed off a route by a subsidized airline, such as Emirates, it means **we lose 1,500 American jobs**. Eventually, this situation places the jobs of everyone in the U.S. aviation industry at risk. These subsidies clearly violate an important international agreement with our country and place our U.S. airlines at a severe, competitive disadvantage.

We stand for Open Skies and fair competition among all airlines. It's an important principle, and one we respect. But when foreign governments violate their agreements with our country, we cannot turn a blind eye. **To date, the UAE and Qatar have provided \$50 billion in subsidies** - that we know of - to Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways.

Mr. President, you campaigned to protect and promote American jobs against foreign interests who for too long have taken advantage of hard-working people right here in this country. This is an incredible opportunity to make good on that pledge. Only you can act to right this wrong. You can protect America's aviation workers by enforcing our agreements with the UAE and Qatar. We need your help.

Respectfully,

The Partnership for Open & Fair Skies



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
OPEN & FAIR SKIES**
A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL

The Partnership for Open & Fair Skies is a coalition that includes American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, along with the Air Line Pilots Association, the Allied Pilots Association, the Southwest Airline Pilots' Association, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, the Communications Workers of America, and the Airline Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. For more information, please visit www.openandfairskies.com or follow us @OpenFairSkies.

Paid for by the Partnership for Open & Fair Skies.

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