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RAILBOADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, AC 20515-3013

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November 24, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We applaud the recent decision by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to dismiss Norwegian Air International's (NAI) application for an exemption to fly to the U.S. without a foreign air carrier permit. NAI's application was not in the public interest and ran counter to international aviation agreements. That initial decision by DOT was critically important to the U.S. aviation industry and its hundreds of thousands of employees who strive to compete on a level playing field.

We urge DOT to deny NAI's pending application for a foreign air carrier permit. We remain concerned that granting NAI's application for a foreign air carrier permit would not be in the public interest and would unfairly put domestic airlines at a competitive disadvantage. We also reiterate our belief that the business model of NAI does not comply with the provisions of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement.

As you know, in June, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed an amendment that would require DOT to ensure that any foreign air operators' applications follow the terms of U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement and U.S. law. That amendment was driven by the belief that NAI's flag-of-convenience business model does not comply with U.S. and international law, and would be detrimental to the future of the U.S. aviation industry, aviation workers, and our national economy.

We remain committed to sound aviation policy and respectfully reiterate that NAI's application raises serious concerns, and it should not be approved. Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

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Sincerely.

Chris Collins

Member of Congress

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