



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION • WWW.ALPA.ORG

1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 703-689-2270 • 888-FLY-ALPA

April 8, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 51,000 professional pilots of the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), I encourage you to sign on to the letter to Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx urging them to request consultations on our Open Skies agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar. A Dear Colleague was circulated on April 7 by Representatives Lipinski (D-IL), Dold (R-IL), Pallone (D-NJ), Emmer (R-MN), Israel (D-NY) and Cook (R-CA), in support of open and fair skies. The sign-on letter is supported by aviation labor and our airline industry partners.

In the case of the UAE and Qatar, state-owned airlines have been subsidized in violation of our existing Open Skies agreement to the point of distorting the international aviation market. The governments of the UAE and Qatar have given their airlines (Emirates Airline, Etihad Airlines, and Qatar Airways) **over \$42 billion in subsidies in the past ten years**, enabling these carriers to grow at an incredible pace without regard to profitability.

The subsidized service from these airlines to the U.S. does not lead to increased travel and tourism as some erroneously claim. Rather, the result is simply that existing U.S. carrier passengers, who usually change planes at a European hub for travel beyond, re-route onto these state-owned carriers and change planes in the UAE or Qatar instead. This loss of passenger traffic undermines U.S. carriers on current and future profitable routes which would negatively affect thousands of good, middle-class jobs. Every widebody aircraft frequency lost by a U.S. carrier to these subsidized airlines results in a net loss of more than 800 U.S. jobs.

It is incumbent upon the U.S. Government to utilize the existing tools within our Open Skies agreements to open consultations with the UAE and Qatar. The thoroughly [documented subsidies](#) run contrary to the letter and spirit of our agreements and the U.S. Government must address them immediately.

I urge you to consider signing on to this bipartisan letter to promote fair competition in the global aviation marketplace and stand up for U.S. jobs. Please contact ALPA Government Affairs at 202-797-4033 should you have any questions about U.S. Open Skies agreements or aviation industry issues.

Thank you for your support of U.S. airlines and their workers.

Sincerely,

Tim Canoll, President