

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2902

June 25, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting our nation's transportation networks, which are a vital to our economy. I write today to express concern regarding Norwegian Air International Limited's (NAI) application for a foreign air carrier permit and how that may impact American jobs and the competitiveness of American companies.

While I continue to support our Open Skies agreement with the European Union, I am very concerned that the operating structure of NAI is designed solely to avoid Norway's labor regulations, taxes, and other costs in an effort to unfairly undercut U.S. domestic carriers. This business model relies on outsourced labor, including flight crews contracted from Singapore, which would be covered by Asian employment standards and be paid wages that are substantially lower than what is acceptable in both the U.S. and Europe. In fact, NAI will not even provide air service to Ireland, the country that issued NAI's Air Operator Certificate.

For these reasons, and many more, I am concerned that NAI's operating structure will do serious damage to the U.S. airline industry's transatlantic business. This will further hurt an industry that is still recovering from the economic difficulties of the past decade, jeopardizing the livelihood of Americans who work for these airlines, the airports they serve, and associated supporting businesses. I believe that this is counter to our current EU-US Air Transport Agreement and inconsistent with our public interest requirements.

I appreciate your attention to my concerns and hope that you will consider these serious issues as you review NAI's foreign air carrier permit application.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

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