

May 12, 2015

Dear Secretary Kerry, Secretary Foxx and Secretary Pritzker,

We are writing in support of our brothers and sisters around the country, members of the Association of Flight Attendants, AFA/CWA whose jobs are threatened by unfair practices by foreign airlines, specifically the state-owned airlines from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Unfair labor practices are once again hurting U.S. workers and threatening jobs here in Michigan and across America. The threat is coming from three airlines in the Middle East — Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways and Emirates.

For ten years, these three foreign airlines have received massive subsidies from their respective governments. These enormous subsidies are a violation of U.S. Open Skies policy and they allow Gulf carriers to undercut competitors' prices on key international routes. This means U.S. carriers like American, Delta and United lose market share. Each route given up by a U.S. Carrier on an International flight results in nearly 800 U.S. Aviation jobs lost. The loss of International flying will also have an impact on the domestic operations at large international gateway cities. Furthermore, American carriers will be forced to cut domestic flights and local travel, that so many American families depend on.

With the help of nearly \$40 billion in government subsidies these Middle East carriers are tipping the scales in their favor - and we are the ones losing out. In fact, each international round-trip flight that is lost or forgone because of this unfair imbalance results in the average loss of eight hundred American jobs – many of them hard-working union jobs. Further, by limiting their employees' rights to collectively bargain, Qatar, Etihad and Emirates receive what amounts to a \$3.1 billion subsidies in below market labor costs.

Therefore, we urge you take action to open consultations with Qatar and the UAE to address the questionable financial practices and harmful policies that undercut U.S. companies and workers.

Sincerely,

CWA Unified Council of Michigan

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