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March 13, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

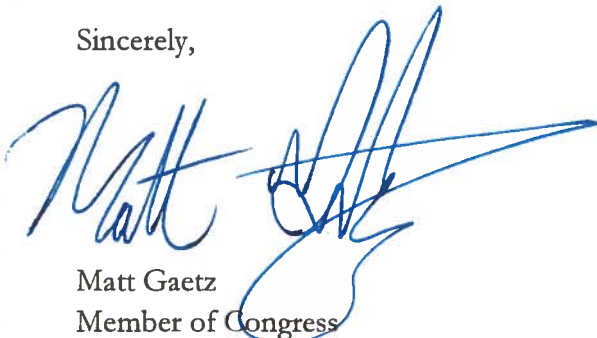
I write to address my concern regarding the recent actions taken by the government of Qatar in violation of the Open Skies agreement. Your record of negotiating trade deals— withdrawing from the poorly negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership, renegotiating the failing NAFTA and KORUS trade deals, bringing the Chinese to the negotiating table, and removing the United States from both Paris Climate Accord and the Iran Nuclear Deal—proves you have expertly negotiated on behalf of our country.

Last year, you negotiated a deal for greater Qatari transparency and to put an end to their illegal subsidies for their state-owned airline, Qatar Airways – even including the halt of expansion by Qatar Airways into the United States until these subsidies were completely ended. It was an ‘America First’ victory.

Soon after the agreement was reached, Qatar Airways purchased a large stake in a small, failing Italian regional airline, known as Meridiana. This purchase was facilitated using a direct cash injection of 100 million Euros from the State of Qatar. Qatar then rebranded the airline “Air Italy”, promptly transferred to it a number of new Qatar Airways widebody airplanes, and announced that the new “Air Italy” would be launching service to five cities in United States. Air Italy is nothing more than a proxy airline for Qatar to get around the deal it signed after pledging to stop this trade cheating.

Not only does Qatar’s cheating undermine competition and threaten American workers—over 1,500 American jobs are lost for every route launched into the U.S. by a subsidized Middle Eastern carrier—but it directly and deliberately threatens our ‘America First’ policies. Mr. President, I urge you to continue standing up to Qatar and demanding enforcement of the deal they are violating or we must withdrawal from the agreement altogether.

Sincerely,



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Thank you,
Mr. President!