

DOUG COLLINS

9TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER

EMAIL VIA WEBSITE:
<https://dougcollins.house.gov>



DISTRICT OFFICE
210 WASHINGTON STREET NW
SUITE 202
GAINESVILLE, GA 30501
(770) 297-3388

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1504 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8893

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1009

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your continuous efforts to advance the needs and interests of American workers and businesses.

Last year, you continued to fulfill your America First promise by bringing the nation of Qatar to the negotiating table and calling for Qatar to comply with the Open Skies agreement. Your Administration negotiated a deal for greater Qatari transparency and an end to their illegal subsidies for their state-owned airline, Qatar Airways—including the halt of expansion by Qatar Airways into the United States until such time as they show the flow of subsidies has ended.

Unfortunately, in the year since the agreement, Qatar has continued to sidestep the terms of the agreement and continue its anti-competitive practices.

Qatar Airways has now purchased a large stake in a small, failing Italian regional airline, known as Meridiana. The purchase was facilitated using a direct cash injection of €100 million from the Qatari government and the airline was rebranded to “Air Italy.” Qatar was able to transfer a number of widebody airplanes to the rebranded airline and announced that the new Air Italy would launch service to five cities in the United States. As we understand it, Air Italy appears to be a proxy airline for Qatar to circumvent the agreement with the United States.

You have consistently protected and prioritized the jobs of working Americans, exemplified by a modernized aviation trade agreement between the United States and Qatar. To that end, we urge you to insist that Qatar adheres to the agreement worked out by your Administration and is no longer allowed to undermine competition and American jobs. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to American jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Collins', written over a horizontal line.

Doug Collins
Ninth Congressional District of Georgia