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June 26, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your exceptional leadership for our nation and especially for your commitment to prioritize America's interests in economic policies, job creation, manufacturing, foreign policy, trade and defense. Through your inspired leadership, your administration has ushered in a new sense of optimism among Americans and has put our nation back on a path of pride, prosperity, and patriotism.

Your ongoing efforts to renegotiate trade agreements to be more favorable to United States' interests, withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord and pulling the United States out of the flawed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action "Iran Nuclear Deal," is further evidence of your commitment to put America first.

Understanding your unwavering commitment to protecting American business and American jobs, I wanted to bring your attention to an ongoing issue within the air transportation industry. While you have successfully brought the nation of Qatar to the negotiating table to address their violations of the Open Skies policy by illegally subsidizing their state-owned Qatar Airways, Qatar is continuing to spend billions of dollars subsidizing Qatar Airways. These unfair and illegal subsidies are cheating the United States and threatening the jobs of American workers. Qatar Airways, with the financial backing of the Qatari government, has also bought a 49% stake in a small, failing Italian regional airline, Meridiana. Qatar has renamed the airline Air Italy, transferred a number of new Qatar Airways widebody planes to them, and announced flight routes to the United States. Air Italy functions as a proxy airline for Qatar Airways, allowing them to feign compliance with your recent negotiations, while expanding into the United States, abusing the deal they agreed to. For every route they launch into the United States, an average of 1,500 American jobs are lost.

Allowing a Qatari proxy to distort U.S. airline markets, hurts American jobs. As you navigate our complicated relationship with Qatar, I would appreciate your continued efforts to promote American interests and require Qatar to fully comply with the deal they agreed to.

Sincerely,


Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress