

# United States Senate

July 17, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries Chao, Ross and Tillerson:

For more than 25 years, the United States has entered into "Open Skies" agreements with other countries to promote free market principles and expand the commercial aviation industry.

These agreements give our aviation industry the opportunity to compete around the world, and enforcing them is vitally important to promoting a free market.

For well over a decade, several countries that claim to operate within Open Skies agreements have been in open violation of these agreements. The Gulf carriers have received an unprecedented level of subsidization in the amount of \$50 billion documented since 2004. This blatant disregard for our Open Skies agreements has allowed these airlines to undercut U.S. carriers, financially damaging the U.S. airline industry, jeopardizing service to small- and medium-sized communities, and threatening American jobs.

Failing to enforce our trade agreements harms American companies, workers, communities, and consumers, all of whom these agreements were intended to protect.

I know that you share my belief that American companies will not only compete, but excel in a true free market. Our government should once again stand by them and the agreements we have entered into.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz  
United States Senate