

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Chao, Pompeo and Ross:

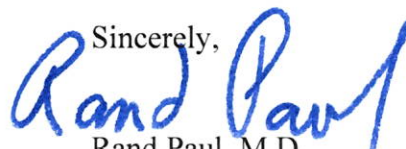
I write to request a review of Qatar's compliance with our Open Skies agreement.

U.S. aviation trade agreements are premised upon countries having access to aviation markets without distortions or influences such as government subsidies. Earlier this year, the Trump Administration brought an end to a long-running dispute over whether Qatar provided its state-owned airline with government subsidies in violation of our Open Skies agreement. Due to the Trump Administration's efforts, Qatar Airways committed to disclosing any major financial transactions with state entities.

But, recent developments warrant an investigation as to whether Qatar is adhering to the commitments it made to the United States. Qatar Airways recently became a 49 percent shareholder in Air Italy, which, in turn, may now be the recipient of Qatari government subsidies. If true, the investment in Air Italy may have been a means by which to circumvent the resolution the Trump Administration successfully negotiated with Qatar. Simply put, a review is needed to determine whether Qatar is in compliance with our Open Skies agreement.

Consistent with the past actions of this Administration, I ask that you review the relationship between the government of Qatar, Qatar Airways, and Air Italy and determine whether Air Italy is receiving Qatari government subsidies in violation of our Open Skies agreement. Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.  
United States Senator