

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C., 20520

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

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

Dear Secretaries Pompeo, Chao, and Ross:

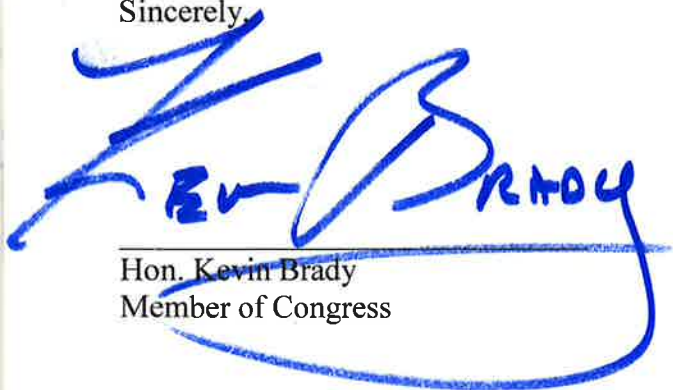
We write today with concerns that the Administration's hard-fought and successfully negotiated Open Skies agreement with Qatar is not being honored. As you know, Qatar committed to not launch any new direct flights to the United States from third party countries, which could threaten to drive American carriers out of the market.

Last year, Qatar Airways purchased a 49 percent stake in Meridiana, an Italian regional airline, and rebranded it as Air Italy. The airline has since launched flights directly between Europe and the United States. We are concerned that Qatar's actions go against the intention of our Open Skies agreement.

The American aviation industry supports approximately 1.2 million American jobs, including almost 200,000 in Texas alone. These American airline jobs depend on a strong, market driven, and enforceable Open Skies agreement to ensure a level playing field for international air travel.

We appreciate the continued work of this Administration to uphold our bilateral trade deals, and respectfully request further examination into Qatar's commitments to the United States, and their actions regarding Air Italy. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep our offices apprised as you review the agreement.


Sincerely,



Hon. Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



Hon. Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Hon. Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Hon. Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress



Hon. Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



Hon. Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Hon. Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Hon. Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



Hon. Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



Hon. Kay Granger  
Member of Congress



Hon. Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress