



April 11, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20451

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

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the U.S. aviation industry, we are writing to urge you pause additional passenger flights between the United States and the People's Republic of China until U.S. workers and businesses are guaranteed equality of access in the marketplace, free from the existing harmful anti-competitive policies of the Chinese government.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, China unilaterally suspended the bilateral air services agreement with the U.S. and effectively closed the market to U.S. carriers. During this period, the Chinese implemented strict limits on market access, as well as imposing challenging rules effecting operations, customers and the treatment of our airline crew. These actions demonstrated the clear need for the U.S. government to establish a policy that protects U.S. aviation workers, industry and air travelers.

The competitive disadvantage is harmful to the approximately 315,000 workers employed by U.S. passenger airlines that serve China. If the growth of the Chinese aviation market is allowed to continue unchecked and without concern for equality of access in the market, flights will continue to be relinquished to Chinese carriers at the expense of U.S. workers and businesses.

The anti-competitive relationship between the two countries is highlighted by the advantage Chinese airlines receive by continuing to access Russian airspace, while U.S. carriers stopped flying through Russian airspace at the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in March 2022.

Even for those flights not operating through Russian airspace, there is still a competitive disadvantage with Chinese airlines enjoying certain protections stemming from the Chinese airline's relationships with their government. This allows Chinese airlines to operate irrespective of standard market conditions. Much like the current and previous administrations have

addressed anti-competitive practices and overcapacity with China, we believe the concerns of U.S. carriers today are no different.

We strongly urge the U.S. government to pause additional flights until U.S. workers and businesses are guaranteed equality of access in the marketplace without China's existing damaging anti-competitive policies. We ask the government to take the time to address these significant competitive issues and protect U.S. aviation workers, travelers and airlines.

Very respectfully,



Nicholas E. Calio
President and CEO
Airlines for America



Captain Jason Ambrosi
President
Air Line Pilots Association



Captain Ed Sicher
President
Allied Pilots Association



Sara Nelson
International President
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO