The Honorable Linda Puchala, Chairwoman
The Honorable Kyle Fortson, Member
The Honorable Gerald W. Fauth, III, Member
National Mediation Board
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairwoman Puchala and Members Fauth and Fortson,

We write to you regarding the status of mediation for thousands of airline catering workers. As some of the lowest-paid employees in the U.S. airline industry, these workers cannot wait any longer for change.

Over 15,000 workers at LSG Sky Chefs and Gate Gourmet who cater flights for American, Delta, United and other airlines have voted overwhelmingly in favor of authorizing a strike when released from mediation. The unions representing these workers have now requested release to self-help. Regardless of the employment arrangement, the responsibility ultimately lies with the airlines to ensure that these vital members of the aviation community receive fair compensation.

While we understand that mediation through the National Mediation Board (NMB) can often take years, thousands of airline catering workers are living in poverty today and cannot wait for overdue raises or health care. These workers should not have continued to choose between paying bills and buying medicine while their employers and the airline industry drag out mediation.

We appreciate the hard work of the NMB in working to address these growing labor concerns and conducting mediation for LSG Sky Chefs and Gate Gourmet simultaneously. The NMB should now release these workers to self-help, releasing them from mediation and allowing them the ability to strike. We believe these workers’ goal is to escape poverty, not to disrupt travel, and that a prompt release is the only path towards settlement.

Thank you for providing your full and fair consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress