

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2020

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



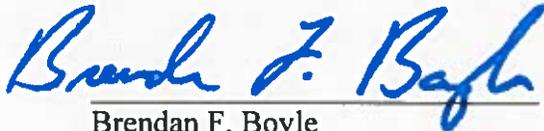
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Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



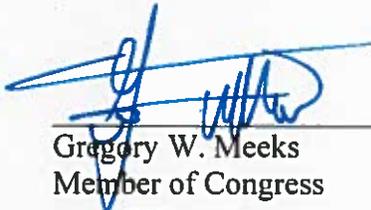
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Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
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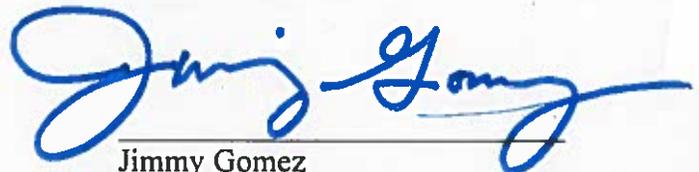
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Pramila Jayapal
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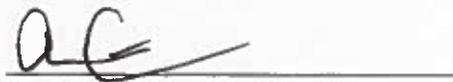
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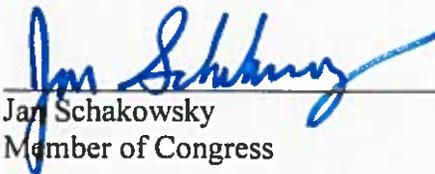
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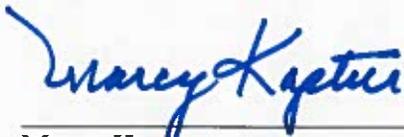
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Marcy Kaptur
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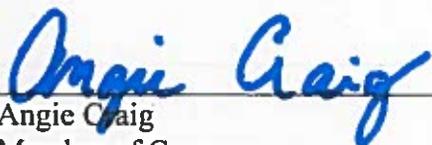
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Ted Lieu
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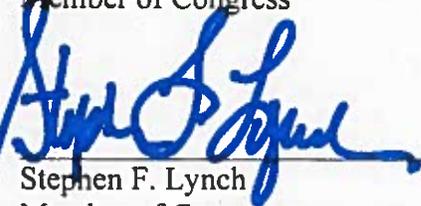
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