



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Office of the National President

December 7, 2016

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary Designate
General Services Administration
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary Designate Chao:

I want to congratulate you on the recent announcement by President-Elect Trump that you will be nominated as Secretary of Transportation in the new administration. I am sure your extensive experience not only at the Department but throughout government will serve you well and allow you to “hit the ground running.” I am looking forward to working with you to advance common interests.

As you may know, late last Friday, December 2, 2016, the Obama Administration’s Department of Transportation announced that it had approved Norwegian Air International’s (NAI) application to begin flying regularly-scheduled international flights from the United States.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), is part of a bipartisan group of workers, management, and elected officials who have vigorously opposed NAI’s attempt to skirt long-established labor and safety rules. We have shown that NAI’s “novel” strategy was nothing more than a “flag of convenience” scheme that, in the long term, would undercut America’s aviation industry.

As National President of the world’s largest independent mainline flight attendant union, representing nearly 26,000 American workers and their families, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to immediately review and reverse this lame duck decision on taking office. President-Elect Trump’s transition team has rightly called on federal agencies to halt non-essential rulemaking until the new administration is firmly in place. This decision on the part of the Obama DOT is an outright rejection of that request and slap in the face of the hard-working men and women who built the finest commercial aviation system in the world.

Honorable Elaine Chao
Page 2
December 7, 2016

If allowed to stand, this decision will mark the first step in the dismantling of our proud aviation industry. It was precisely this kind of flag of convenience scheme that destroyed our country's merchant marine and, if not reversed, will have the same effect on aviation.

We understand the challenges you face as you put your new team in place, but I cannot emphasize enough the critical importance of reversing this eleventh-hour decision. Hundreds of thousands of American workers are counting on you and the Trump Administration to stand up for American workers by keeping the playing fields level.

Thank you for your consideration of this most important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. A. Ross", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Robert A. Ross
APFA National President