

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

April 22, 2013

Secretary Janet Napolitano  
Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Madam Secretary:

On April 4, it was reported that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is finalizing an agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to open a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi.

This move would be a clear benefit for Etihad Airways – a company wholly-owned by the UAE – in its goal to transform Abu Dhabi Airport into a global hub whose annual passenger capacity will increase from 12.5 million to 30 million by 2017.

What is less clear is why the Department – knowing that no U.S. carriers currently serve Abu Dhabi – would agree to provide this obvious competitive advantage to a foreign carrier at the expense of the domestic airline industry and its over 500,000 workers.

As strong proponents of competition and the free market, we strongly object to the government's proposal to create an uneven playing field for market participants. We further object to the fact that in this instance, the government has so obviously chosen to intervene in support of a foreign government over the interests of a vital U.S. industry and workforce.

The American commercial aviation industry supports over a trillion dollars of economic activity and 10 million jobs while providing the safest, most reliable air transit system in the world. We have every confidence that U.S. airlines can be marketplace global leaders in commercial aviation – but that we cannot possibly expect them to succeed when this Administration helps foreign national carriers at the expense of domestic airlines.

Providing explicit support for a government-owned foreign competitor by opening a CBP Preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi is wrongheaded, and we strongly urge you to abandon this agreement.

Sincerely,



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Cady, the Hon. Judge

Allen

Paul C. Coker

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