



July 30, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
 Secretary of State
 U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street NW
 Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
 Secretary of Transportation
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretaries Clinton and LaHood:

We are pleased that the U.S. government is taking the initiative to host a meeting of countries that are opposed to the unilateral imposition of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) to international aviation. We are hopeful that the July 31-Aug. 1 meeting will provide further impetus for withdrawal of the unlawful EU scheme and for going forward with the global framework for aviation and climate change provisionally agreed at the 2010 Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

As you recognized in your Dec. 11, 2011 letter to EU officials, the U.S. aviation industry has a strong record of fuel-efficiency improvements and GHG emissions savings. And we remain fully committed to the global aviation industry proposal for aviation GHG emissions under ICAO, which includes an aggressive set of measures and emissions targets. In fact, progress is being made under the global framework. Many countries reportedly have filed aviation and climate Action Plans with ICAO, and ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection just reached a significant milestone in its work to craft a carbon dioxide standard for aircraft, having agreed on the "metric system" on which the standard will be based. Your leadership in the July 31-Aug. 1 meeting and in the months leading up to the 2013 ICAO Assembly will build on this momentum to help ensure the full implementation of the global framework with meaningful participation from all States.

While an important deliverable from the July 31-Aug. 1 meeting certainly will be reconfirming the countries' commitment to the global framework, we ask that the U.S. government strongly restate opposition to – and continuing plans for overturning – the application of the EU ETS to international aviation. It has been seven months since U.S. airlines and aircraft operators became subject to the scheme's emissions allowances purchase, trading and surrender obligations. It has been eight months since you sent a firm letter to EU officials urging them to halt or suspend application of the ETS. As each day goes by without an EU act to halt or suspend the ETS, the harm to U.S. airlines and aircraft operators and the threat to U.S. sovereignty grow while the U.S. government's credibility is weakened.

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We urge the Administration to file an action under Article 84 of the Chicago Convention and to take all other action necessary to overturn this wrongful scheme. There is strong, bipartisan support for ensuring that U.S. passengers, airlines and aircraft operators are not subject to this unlawful scheme, as evidenced by the passage of H.R. 2594 in the House of Representatives and the mark up of S. 1956, the "European Union Emissions Trading Scheme Prohibition Act," scheduled for July 31 in the Senate. We appreciate Congress' action and support and trust that it will give the Administration further impetus for action.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Aerospace Industries Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Airports Council International-North America
American Society of Travel Agents
Cargo Airline Association
Consumer Travel Alliance
Independent Pilots Association
Interactive Travel Services Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Regional Airline Association
International Brotherhood of Teamsters – Airline Division
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association