

NANCY PELOSI
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

233 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0508
(202) 225-4965

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

DISTRICT OFFICE:
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING
90-7TH STREET, SUITE 2-800
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
(415) 556-4862
www.pelosi.house.gov

May 9, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

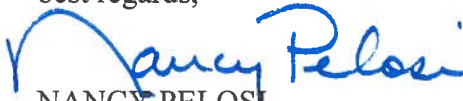
I write to respectfully urge the Department of Transportation to set aside its tentative decision to grant a foreign air carrier permit to Norwegian Air International, and to deny the application. Granting this permit would go against the public interest, opening the door to flags of convenience that will subvert fair labor standards and encourage a race-to-the-bottom.

Norwegian's business model is intentionally structured to avoid the application of Norwegian labor and social laws, and to undermine its existing collective bargaining contracts with its Norwegian flight crews. This runs in clear contradiction to Article 17 *bis* of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement which states, "The opportunities created by the Agreement are not intended to undermine labour standards or the labour-related rights and principles contained in the Parties' respective laws."

Congress spoke clearly on the necessity of the Department upholding Article 17 protections, passing into law legislative language stating, "None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit... where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 *bis* of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement," as part of the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Bilateral air transport agreements have enjoyed wide support because they have successfully fostered increased competition while providing greater opportunities for airlines and their workers. The Department should carefully consider the consequences of weakening labor standards undermining fair competition and the impact this has on sustainability, jobs and safety. Thank you for consideration of my views on this matter of importance to our workers and our Nation.

best regards,


NANCY PELOSI
Member of Congress