## Congress of the United States

Mashington, **D.C.** 20515

February 8, 2018

Chris Shelton, President Communications Workers of America 501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear President Shelton:

As members of Congress, we are committed to ensuring the rights of our constituents to bargain collectively for good wages and benefits. We have been informed that the Communications Workers of America is currently engaged in negotiations on behalf of your passenger service members at American Airline's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Envoy and Piedmont. We want to encourage you in those efforts.

It is our understanding that in the case of Envoy this is a first contract in its second year of negotiations, and at Piedmont it is a successor agreement. Together, the affected workers comprise more than 9,000 of American Airlines' frontline staff. We were pleased to hear about recent progress in the Piedmont negotiations and hope for similar progress in the Envoy negotiations.

Passenger service agents are on the frontlines for American Airlines -- serving the public in airports big and small, staying late when there are weather-related or other disruptions to make sure passengers reach their destination and performing important pre-flight security and safety checks to their travel safety. In some cases, they check in passengers, load their bags and help aircraft depart. They truly help keep the airline running in many challenging situations.

We were surprised to learn that many of those agents earn less than \$11 an hour and, as a result, must deal with constant churn at work and struggle at home to make ends meet. This is despite the fact that passenger service employees play a major role in achieving continued company profitability.

Throughout 2017, and especially during the recent tax debate, members of both parties stressed the importance of raising wages for workers in the United States. American Airlines recently announced that employees, including these Envoy and Piedmont workers, would receive a one-time \$1,000 bonus due to the recent passage of tax legislation. A critical next step is to ensure that those workers' base salaries are sufficient to support themselves and their families. We believe that a successful American Airlines must support living wages for its frontline employees, and we support your ongoing efforts to achieve that result.

Again, we hope you will be able to ensure that all passenger services employees can earn a living wage as part of your collective bargaining negotiations. There is no stronger investment that can be made for American Airlines, the well-being of the traveling public and the future of our communities. We thank you for giving our request your full, fair and prompt consideration.

Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragár Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Member of Congress

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Kathy Castor Member of Congress

Steve Cohen Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio

Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Pete Aguilar

Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady Member of Congress

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Yvette D. Clarke Member of Congress

Joe Courtney Member of Congress

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Rosa DeLauro Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Member of Congress

Keith Ellison Member of Congress

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Anna G. Eshoo Member of Congress

Bill Foster Member of Congress

John Garamendi Member of Congress

Gene Green Member of Congress

**Brian Higgins** 

Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries Member of Congress

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Eliot L. Engel Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego Member of Congress

Al Green Member of Congress

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Brenda L. Lawrence Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

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Al Lawson, Jr. Member of Congress

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Emanuel Cleaver, II Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond Member of Congress