

BRIAN HIGGINS  
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
RESPONSE, AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,  
EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)  
  
726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)  
  
640 PARK PLACE  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301  
(716) 282-1274  
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)  
higgins.house.gov

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write to express concern regarding Norwegian Air International Limited's (NAI) application before the Department of Transportation to begin operating in the United States as a foreign air carrier. As you may know, NAI has planned an unusual operational structure that may allow it to circumvent critical labor and safety regulations.

Despite being based in Norway, NAI recently obtained an operating license from Ireland, and it intends to base its long haul operation there. Doing so would enable NAI to outsource its operations and hire less expensive workers based in Thailand and Singapore.

This business model could result in substandard wages and reduced working conditions. It also raises questions regarding how the Irish Aviation Authority would be able to provide appropriate safety oversight when neither the airline nor its aircraft will operate through Ireland. As an advocate for aviation safety who has fought to enact critical reforms, I find these implications especially disconcerting.

Given these unscrupulous and potentially unsafe practices, and your department's mandate to encourage "fair wages and working conditions" and to strengthen "the competitive position of [U.S.] air carriers to at least ensure equality with foreign air carriers," I urge you to reject NAI's application.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress