

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

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Linda Puchala  
Chairwoman  
National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005

The Honorable Kyle Fortson  
Board Member  
National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005

The Honorable Gerald W. Fauth, III  
Board Member  
National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairwoman Puchala and Board Members Fauth and Forston:

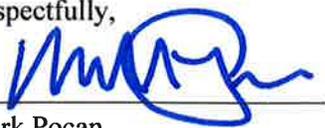
Air Wisconsin flight attendants, represented by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA), have been in contract negotiations with Air Wisconsin Airlines for almost four years, and have spent more than two years in mediation.

Despite being responsible for critical safety procedures, Air Wisconsin flight attendants working full time make as little as \$15,000 per year. Their wage rates have been frozen since 2007 and many struggle to meet their financial needs. Air Wisconsin Flight Attendants work on flights for United Airlines but make less than half of what a flight attendant for United Airlines makes.

Because bargaining and mediation have not proven successful, Air Wisconsin flight attendants voted to authorize a strike in November of 2018 with 99 percent of their membership voting in favor. The Railway Labor Act (RLA) mandates a period of mediation followed by a proffer of arbitration and a 30-day cooling off period prior to rail and airline employees exercising their right to strike. The parties have clearly not been able to resolve their dispute under the mechanisms afforded them under the RLA. Without the National Mediation Board (NMB) issuing a proffer of arbitration, we are concerned that the Air Wisconsin flight attendants are left without recourse, effectively locking them in poverty wages.

AFA has sent multiple letters over the last year requesting the NMB allow Air Wisconsin flight attendants to enter into a 30-day cooling off period. The NMB has responded to those requests by mandating further mediation, even though there has been no progress at the bargaining table. We urge the NMB to review this matter carefully and give fair consideration to AFA's request for release to self-help.

Respectfully,



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



Norma Torres  
Member of Congress



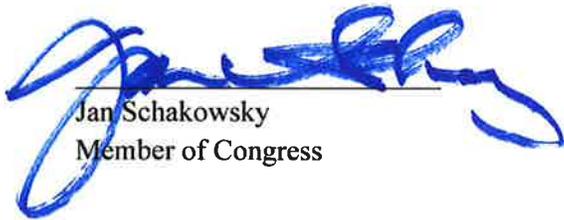
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



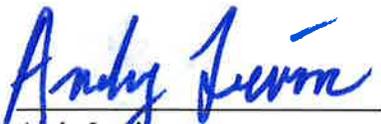
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



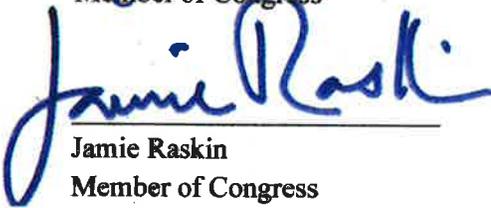
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

CC: Sara Nelson, President, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA  
Christine Deister, Chief Executive Officer, Air Wisconsin Airlines  
Oscar Munoz, Chief Executive Officer, United Airlines