

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2018

Gerald W. Fauth, III, Chairman
Kyle Fortson, Member
Linda Puchala, Member
National Mediation Board
1301 K Street, NW, Suite 250 East
Washington, DC 20005

Chairman Fauth and Members Fortson and Puchala,

We are concerned that the National Mediation Board's recent unprecedented actions in a representation dispute involving United Airlines are contrary to NMB's statutory duty to resolve such disputes quickly.

In agreeing to the Carrier's spurious request to initiate a lengthy investigation before conducting an election rather than after, and thus substantially delaying the election process, the NMB has sharply departed from the standards in its Representation Manual and prior precedents requiring a showing of extraordinary circumstances supported by substantial evidence. We are also concerned that, having departed from its usual standards, the NMB is now claiming a lack of resources to conduct its investigation in an expeditious manner.

In this case, we understand that United Airlines catering employees have greeted UNITE HERE's organizing efforts with great enthusiasm. The union submitted 2,098 election authorization cards to the NMB, representing 76% of the employees involved, far beyond the 50% showing of interest required.

We also understand that members of Congress have already written to United Airlines to express concern about United's ongoing campaign to intimidate and suppress workers' desire for a union. It is troubling that the NMB may now be viewed as validating United's anti-union efforts by initiating an investigation on the basis of United's allegations alone, instead of a finding of substantial evidence as required under the Board's rules.

Accordingly, we call on you to postpone any investigation into allegations of election interference until after the election, as per the Board's long-established standards, and allow United Airlines catering workers to exercise their right to vote immediately.

Sincerely,



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



RICHARD M. NOLAN
Member of Congress



RO KHANNA
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress




KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



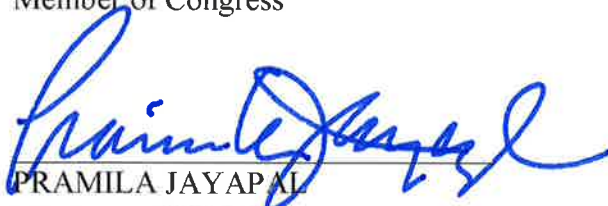
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



BRENDAN BOYLE
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



SHELIA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress