

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Kyle Fortson
1301 K St. NW
Suite 250 East
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Chairman Fortson:

We write to express our concern regarding the National Mediation Board's ("Board") delay of a union election requested by United Airlines catering employees and to urge the Board to hold a vote expeditiously.


More than 2,000 United Airlines catering workers, or 76 percent of the total catering workforce, submitted election authorization cards in January of this year. This submission of authorization cards should have paved the way for a vote to be held for the workers in United Airlines' kitchens in Newark, Houston, Denver, Honolulu, and Cleveland. More than six months later, however, an election still has not been held.

United Airlines has taken advantage of this delay. We understand that the company is employing tactics, including all-day anti-union programming played on televisions in the workplace and personal visits by the company's CEO, to dissuade workers from joining the union. We are concerned that any further delay will make it difficult for the vote to occur in an environment free from employer intimidation.

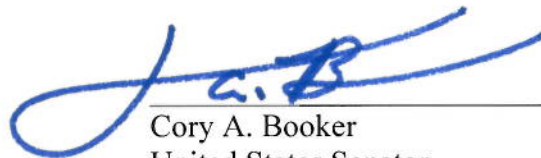
We understand the Board is conducting an investigation into the company's allegations of election interference; however, we understand the Board's long-standing practice allows elections to be held even when pending allegations are being investigated to prevent undue influence in the election process. If the conclusion of an investigation reveals that an election outcome would have been different, the results can be vacated and proper action can be taken by the Board at that time. It is unclear why the Board chose to postpone a vote in this case, and we are troubled by the precedent the Board's actions represent.

We urge the Board to protect the rights of United Airlines catering workers' to choose whether to form a union and quickly schedule an election in this case.

Sincerely,



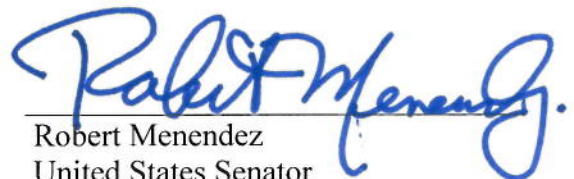
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator