

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

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Robert Isom
Chief Executive Officer – American Airlines
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard
Forth Worth, Texas 76155

February 3, 2026

Dear Mr. Robert Isom,

As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, I write to express my deep concern regarding your airline's continued commercial operations to Communist Cuba and urge you to end all flights to the island.

On January 29, 2026, President Trump issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency due to the Cuban dictatorship posing an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to American security. The Cuban regime is currently designated by the United States Department of State as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This designation reflects the regime's long record of supporting hostile actors, harboring U.S. fugitives, and aligning itself with adversarial governments that actively undermine American national security interests.

Allowing routine commercial air travel to a regime that is openly hostile to the United States presents serious national security and public safety risks. Cuba's intelligence and security services maintain extensive surveillance and counterintelligence operations, and the regime has a documented history of exploiting international travel and commerce for its own purposes. These factors raise legitimate concerns regarding passenger safety, information security, and compliance with U.S. law.

Moreover, commercial flights provide the Cuban dictatorship with hard currency that directly benefits the regime and its security apparatus, not the Cuban people. Continuing such operations risks legitimizing and financially sustaining a government that represses its citizens, threatens regional stability, and acts in direct opposition to U.S. security interests.

As a South Florida Member of Congress, I am deeply concerned about the safety of our travelers during this critical juncture. I appreciate your attention to this matter and welcome further dialogue regarding how the private sector can align its operations with the safety and security interests of the United States.

The United States cannot recognize and legitimize the Cuban dictatorship. The Helms-Burton Act, codified the principle that the United States must deny the Cuban regime resources and legitimacy until it makes verifiable progress toward democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. Continued commercial air service undermines the intent of this law by providing financial benefit and international credibility to a regime that remains entrenched in repression and hostility towards its people and to the United States. Allowing such engagement contradicts decades of bipartisan policy designed to stand with the Cuban people against their oppressors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carlos A. Giménez', with a stylized, flowing script.

Carlos A. Giménez
Member of Congress

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Ed Bastian
Chief Executive Officer – Delta Airlines
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

February 3, 2026

Dear Mr. Ed Bastian,

As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, I write to express my deep concern regarding your airline's continued commercial operations to Communist Cuba and urge you to end all flights to the island.

On January 29, 2026, President Trump issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency due to the Cuban dictatorship posing an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to American security. The Cuban regime is currently designated by the United States Department of State as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This designation reflects the regime's long record of supporting hostile actors, harboring U.S. fugitives, and aligning itself with adversarial governments that actively undermine American national security interests.

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Carlos A. Giménez
Member of Congress