

# Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

January 13, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President, Madam Speaker, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the flight attendants represented by the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), we urge you to reopen the federal government immediately. The closure of vital federal agencies is doing considerable harm to working families and the safety of our country's transportation system. The partial shutdown is a financial body blow to over 800,000 federal employees and more than one million contract workers. As the shutdown drags on, threats to our nation's transportation system grow ever more dangerous.

The TWU represents over 22,000 flight attendants at Southwest, Allegiant, Jet Blue, and FSI. Our lives depend on aviation safety. But thousands of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety inspectors, who are integral to a safe airline industry, have been shut out of their jobs for three weeks. FAA inspectors certify the safe operation of the nation's aviation system, overseeing general and commercial aviation aircraft, domestic and foreign repair stations, pilots, and flight instructors. Inspections have been sharply curtailed since the shutdown. Meanwhile, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) have to report to work but do not know when they will be paid. Many TSOs have been forced to call in sick because they simply cannot afford to come to work without getting a paycheck. As a result, delays are skyrocketing in some airport security lines, which creates significant problems when flight attendants report to duty. These safety and security lapses pose significant risks to passenger safety and the economic wellbeing of our industry.

The shutdown has gone on for more than three weeks. Serious damage is being caused to our national aviation system and economic security. We urge you to find a way to fund the government, reopen federal agencies, and provide immediate back pay to workers.

Sincerely,

Mike Mayes, Air Division Director  
TWU of America

Lyn Montgomery, President  
TWU Local 556

Joseph Mayfield, President  
TWU Local 577