



July 24, 2024

Dear Senator:

As leaders of North America's aviation unions representing the vast majority of airline workers, we write in support of the Gate Gourmet workers who prepare and load snacks, water and meals onto flights for the airlines where our members work as flight attendants, pilots, mechanics, baggage and freight handlers, aircraft cleaners, passenger service agents, dispatchers and other positions.

The 8,000 Gate Gourmet inflight catering workers, who are members of one of four International Unions,¹ have been in negotiations for over six years. At a time when the airlines are seeing record profits, these workers have been laboring under a nearly decade-old contract in which less than 3% percent of the workforce makes a living wage.² And Gate Gourmet's healthcare plan is so unaffordable that fewer than 2% of the inflight catering bargaining unit has signed up for dependent healthcare for their families.

It is time for Gate and the airlines they serve to put an end to these shameful labor conditions, and start taking responsibility for this neglected workforce.

After six years of mostly-fruitless negotiations and mediation, Gate Gourmet has yet to put forward a serious offer that would provide employees with livable wages and a pathway to affordable family healthcare coverage.


It is not therefore surprising that the National Mediation Board (NMB) recently released Gate Gourmet and its 8,000 union employees from Board-overseen mediation, declaring that all practical methods to reach an agreement as provided in the Railway Labor Act have been exhausted.

¹ The four International Unions: the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, UNITE-HERE, Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM), and the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU),

² According to the MIT wage calculator for a single person in their respective locales. See <https://livingwage.mit.edu>.

These long-overlooked workers have our enthusiastic support, and we hope they have yours as well. We urge you to stand with these courageous workers and oppose groundless calls from employers for government intervention in the collective bargaining process.

Sincerely,




Capt. Jason Ambrosi, President
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l



Sara Nelson, International President
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA



Brian Bryant, International President
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



John Samuelsen, International President
Transport Workers Union