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September 28, 2022

Via Email

American Airlines Executive Officers & Board of Directors
1 Skyview Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76155

RE: Open Letter to American Airlines regarding its Environmental and ESG Goals

Dear American Airlines Executive Officers & Board of Directors,

For our society to meet the challenge of global climate change, wealthy corporations like American Airlines must scale back emissions and require their contractors to set clear environmental goals in publicly accessible reports. According to a study in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*, global air travel and transport is responsible for 3.5% of all drivers of climate change from human activities. The airline industry must combat this existential crisis.

American has established Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) goals, which include reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. However, a February 2022 interagency report by NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and other federal agencies found that global sea level will already have risen one foot by 2050, with devastating consequences for communities, flora, and fauna throughout the world.

American has begun other initiatives to combat climate change but does not appear to consider the impacts of its catering contractor, LSG Sky Chefs, in its own environmental assessment. This is critical because at the fifth-largest airport in the United States, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), revenues from sales to American Airlines comprised nearly 68% of Sky Chefs’ gross revenues as of March 2022. We call on American Airlines to adopt the following recommendations outlined below.

- 1. American Airlines must consider airline catering operations and adopt goals to make its offerings more sustainable:** The most recently published American Airlines ESG Report does not mention Sky Chefs’ environmental impact. By contrast, Air France adopted several goals to make its airline catering offering more sustainable, which it published on a dedicated website. At minimum, American Airlines should follow the lead of Air France and consider catering operations in its environmental assessment and adopt goals requiring Sky Chefs to be more sustainable and transparent about its own environmental commitment and impacts.
- 2. American must commit to reducing at least 90% of single use plastics from its flights and catering operations:** For several years, the National Resources Defense Council, Heal the Bay, Ocean Conservancy, and many other

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environmental organizations have sounded the alarm that single-use plastics cause serious problems for oceans and other ecosystems. Several airlines have made strong commitments to reduce or eliminate single-use plastics, yet it appears neither American Airlines nor Sky Chefs have made such commitments. American and Sky Chefs can look to the examples of Hi Fly, which in 2020 began flying without any single-use plastics items on board, Etihad Airways, which in 2019 committed to reducing single-use plastics by 80% by the end of 2022 or Air France, which set a goal to reduce 90% of single-use plastics by 2023.

- 3. American Airlines must stop donating to politicians who have denied climate change:** Over the past 10 years, American Airlines PAC (AA PAC) has contributed over \$600,000 to Republican Congressional candidates who have made statements denying the impact of human activity on climate change, according to an analysis by the Center for American Progress.ⁱ As an example, AA PAC has contributed \$10,000 to Ted Cruz since 2018 (3% Lifetime Score from the League of Conservation Voters). Senator Cruz claimed at a debate that “the climate has been changing from the dawn of time. The climate will change as long as we have a planet Earth.”ⁱⁱ Among the other Senators AA PAC has contributed to are James M. Inhofe (6% score), James Lankford (6% score), and Tim Scott (6% score). On the House side, AA PAC has contributed \$16,000 to Devin Nunes over the past 10 years (3% Lifetime score), who stated on his podcast that, “When I was a kid, we were having global cooling, and we were going to go into another ice age, and now we’ve switched it to now the Earth is warming.”ⁱⁱⁱ American must stop donating to climate change deniers like Ted Cruz and Devin Nunes.

This letter outlines three commonsense steps American can take to limit its environmental impact. Consumers, environmental organizations, and LSG Sky Chefs workers hope you will begin implementing them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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VOTERS
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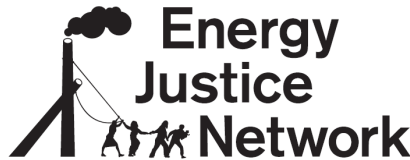
Californians
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The
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Beach
Cleanup



Additional Organizations:

Blue Ocean Warriors
Better Than Yesterday
Usefull

The Refill Station
Marine Mammal Support Organization
Virginia Bottle Bill Organization

CC: Erdmann Rauer, CEO of LSG Group
Justin Erbacci, CEO of Los Angeles World Airports
LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners

ⁱ This figure is based on analysis conducted by the Center for American Progress that analyzed whether candidates had made statements denying humanity's role in climate change. Their analysis, with citations to specific quotes, is retrievable here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v9AXpbzLqvU4M4S25409uui32bs3cPEP/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105816211792310166310&rtpof=true&sd=true>; Donation data was retrieved from the FEC.

ⁱⁱ CAP Source: <https://www.npr.org/2018/12/27/680513764/2018-was-a-milestone-year-for-climate-science-if-not-politics>

ⁱⁱⁱ CAP Source: <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060096459>