

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4606

September 8, 2020

Stephen Johnson
Executive Vice President – Corporate Affairs
American Airlines Group Inc.
1 Skyview Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76155

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I write to you today to follow up on our conversation regarding American Airlines' decision to suspend service at the Dubuque Regional Airport (DBQ). I appreciate you taking time to speak with me on this very important matter and I wanted to reiterate my concerns about this planned suspension of service.

As you know, on August 20th American Airlines announced that it would be suspending service starting October 7th at DBQ. American is the only airline providing service at DBQ and if this decision were to take effect, it would isolate the region and negatively impact travelers and the economic competitiveness of the greater Dubuque region. My office has been in communication with local community leaders who have shared their concern about this decision and feel, as I do, that such a move is unwarranted. This decision comes at a time when enplanements at DBQ are above the national average. While airline travel has been severely impacted by COVID-19, DBQ has had a steady increase in passengers since April.

In Congress I was proud to help craft and pass the CARES Act, which included the \$25 billion Payroll Support Program to help passenger airlines pay their employees, prevent furloughs, and maintain levels of service to small and medium sized markets, like Dubuque. While the Payroll Support Program is set to expire on September 30th, I am committed to using my position to extend this vital program and I am willing to work with Democrats and Republicans to provide additional relief from this pandemic.

Taxpayers stepped up to aid the airline industry when it needed it most. I hope that American Airlines will remember that assistance as it begins to target communities and the lasting impact that suspending air service will have on airports and regional business partners.

With that, I ask that you consider all possible alternatives to suspending service at DBQ. There are other solutions that would maintain air service and mutually beneficial relationship between American Airlines and the greater Dubuque community. Please contact my office if you have any questions or wish to discuss this topic further.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress