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www.unitehere.org

January 29, 2019

Cedric Rockamore  
Vice President, DFW Hub Operations  
American Airlines Group  
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas 76155

Dear Mr. Rockamore:

We are writing to request to meet with you to discuss the difficult situation for more than 800 airline food catering workers, mostly immigrants and people of color, who service American Airlines flights out of Sky Chefs' kitchen at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

These airline catering workers at DFW average eight years on the job, yet half the workers make less than \$12 per hour and some make as little as \$9.85 per hour. Less than half of the workers have company health insurance, and of those who do, some pay premiums as high as \$126 a week. The stories of injury, suffering, and financial hardship shared by so many of these workers are both tragic and unacceptable.

Conversely, American Airlines has reported more than \$12 billion in profits since 2015.<sup>1</sup> American Airlines has touted DFW as its most profitable hub, producing pre-tax margins of 13.1%, higher than the system average of 7.5%.<sup>2 3</sup> This year, American Airlines is adding as many as 100 new daily flights out of DFW, and Chief Financial Officer Derek Kerr recently

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<sup>1</sup> 2015: \$6.3 billion; 2016: \$2.7 billion; 2017: \$1.9 billion; 2018: \$1.4 billion. Available at <https://americanairlines.gcs-web.com/financial-results/financial-aal>

<sup>2</sup> Reed, T., 2018. "American Airlines President: 'We Love All Our Hubs,' But We Will Focus On Three Of Them". *Forbes*. September 5, 2018. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tedreed/2018/09/05/american-delta-and-united-look-to-margin-growth-despite-higher-fuel-costs/#1c16fab05017>

<sup>3</sup> Kerr, D., 2019. "Q4 2018 American Airlines Group Inc Earnings Conference Call". Given January 24, 2019. Webcast. Available at: <https://americanairlines.gcs-web.com/events/event-details/q4-2018-american-airlines-group-inc-earnings-conference-call>



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announced that DFW represents two-thirds of American Airlines' total projected capacity growth in 2019.<sup>4 5</sup>

With this news, combined with the fact that American Airlines is soon to open a new and expanded headquarters and is in discussions about building a new terminal, we hope that you will agree that now is the time to end poverty for airline catering workers at DFW. Your leadership will be necessary to make sure that your expansion here does not leave airline catering workers at DFW even further behind.

At a minimum, we are asking American Airlines to ensure that airline catering food catering workers at DFW receive at least a \$15 per hour. In addition, we are asking that American address wage compression so that long time and more skilled workers are rewarded for their training and tenure, and that you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare.

Please reply to Bo Delp (bdelp@unitehere.org) at your earliest convenience to schedule a date, time, and location for us to meet, share our stories, and explore a speedy resolution to this matter.

*Mr. Preston Strickland*

Sincerely, *Wendy*

*Jim & Nancy  
Kerrett Byrd, Jr.*

*Anthony J. Stevenson*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> Shine, C., 2018. "Why American Airlines 'loves' its DFW Airport hub". *Dallas Morning News*. September 5, 2018. Available at: <https://www.dallasnews.com/business/american-airlines/2018/09/05/american-airlines-loves-dfw-airport-hub>