

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4504

July 6, 2018

Mr. Doug Parker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76155

Dear Mr. Parker:

I would like to invite you to participate in a livestreamed town hall event with me and workers from American Airlines and CEOs and workers from other highly profitable corporations on Monday, July 16, 2018. The conversation will focus on the responsibility of large corporations to promote an economy that works for everyone, the working conditions and wages of workers, our current tax system, and the growing crisis of income and wealth inequality in America.

Today, the richest 1 percent of American families own a greater portion of the country's wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Even more shocking, just three individuals own more wealth than the bottom half. Meanwhile, the incomes of the top earners continue to skyrocket – CEO compensation jumped as much as 937 percent between 1978 and 2016 – while most Americans struggle to get by on stagnating wages.

As you know, many of your own employees work long shifts for low wages. The people you employ who help flights board smoothly, wheel passengers or help them with their bags, handle ticketing and customer service – many of these workers struggle to pay their rent, put food on the table, or send their kids to college.

One American Airlines worker said, "I can barely pay for my car now, half of my rent. Poverty wages just don't cut it." Another worker said, "I work 20 extra additional hours a week because we have a mortgage, we have bills, and plus we have college tuition...I'm just so overwhelmed. All the time, I'm tired. I don't have time with my girls or my husband either," and "I talk to some of my coworkers and sometimes I bring groceries for them because they have nothing to eat."

These are just a few examples of a much larger story about the growing divide between the top 1 percent and everyone else. In the year 2018, no one in America, especially those working for a profitable corporation like American Airlines, should be living in poverty. I hope very much that you will join us, along with workers and executives from Disney, Amazon, Walmart and McDonald's, to discuss how we can create an economy that works for all, not just those on top.

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The panel is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Congressional Auditorium, Room 200 of the United States Capitol Visitor Center. If you have any questions, please call Ari Rabin-Havt on my staff at (202) 224-5141. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, July 16.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator