

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Edward Bastian  
Chief Executive Officer  
Delta Air Lines Inc.  
P.O. Box 20706  
Atlanta, Georgia 30320

Gary C. Kelly  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Southwest Airlines Co.  
2702 Love Field Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75235

Barry L. Biffle  
Chief Executive Officer and President  
Frontier Airlines, Inc.  
7001 Tower Road  
Denver, Colorado 80249

Oscar Munoz  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Airlines, Inc.  
P.O. Box 06649  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-0649

Edward M. Christie III  
Chief Executive Officer and President  
Spirit Airlines, Inc.  
2800 Executive Way  
Miramar, Florida 33025

W. Douglas Parker  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
American Airlines Group  
P.O. Box 619616  
DFW Airport, Texas 75261-9616

Robin Hayes  
Chief Executive Officer  
JetBlue Airways  
27-01 Queens Plaza North  
Long Island City, New York 11101

Bradley T. Tilden  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Alaska Air Group  
P.O. Box 68900-SEAEC  
Seattle, Washington 98168

Dear Airline Executives:

We write today to express concern regarding a CNN article from March 2, 2019, entitled “Can Airplane Seat Cameras Spy on Passengers?” We are alarmed by reports that airlines may be using cameras on in-flight entertainment systems to monitor passengers. Should these reports of the use of undisclosed cameras on in-flight entertainment systems be true, it would be a serious breach of privacy. American passengers deserve to know that their privacy is protected while flying.

While Americans have an expectation that they are monitored in airports as a necessary security measure, the notion that in-flight cameras may monitor passengers while they sleep, eat, or have private conversations is troubling. Further, in light of data breaches that have impacted many major airlines, we have misgivings that cameras or sensors may not employ the necessary security measures to prevent them from being targeted by cybercriminals.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the following information be provided regarding the cameras on in-flight entertainment systems:

1. Does your airline currently use, or has ever used, cameras or sensors to monitor passengers;
2. If yes, what purpose do the cameras serve and in what circumstances may the cameras be activated;
3. If you have or currently do utilize cameras or sensors to monitor passengers, please provide details on how passengers are informed of this practice;
4. Please provide comprehensive data on the number of cameras and sensors used by your fleet, and the type of information that is collected or recorded, how it is stored, and who within your airline is responsible for the review and safekeeping of this information;
5. Further to the above, please confirm what security measures you have in place to prevent data breaches of this information, or hacking of the cameras themselves; and
6. Are the cameras used in any biometric identity capacity, and if so, under what authority?

We look forward to learning more about these practices and request a response within 30 days.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator