



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

GENERAL COUNSEL

OCT 02 2017

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

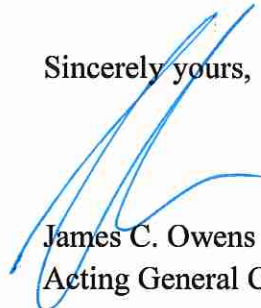
Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your September 6, 2017 letter to Secretary Chao, co-signed by Senator Markey, regarding pricing irregularities on flights departing areas affected by Hurricane Irma. In your letter, you expressed concern about reports of high airfares for tickets from Miami and areas in the Caribbean, and you urge the Department to investigate these practices.

The Department is committed to ensuring the fair treatment of the traveling public. We note that several days in advance of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, airlines increased capacity, implemented liberal rebooking policies, and placed upper limits on prices for certain fares from cities in the path of the storms. The Department will continue to monitor airline behavior and passenger complaints.

I hope this information is helpful. A similar letter has been sent to Senator Markey.

Sincerely yours,



James C. Owens
Acting General Counsel