

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2015

Mr. John J. Degnan
Chairman
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Mr. Patrick J. Foye
Executive Director
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Degnan and Executive Director Foye:

We write to express our concerns regarding the wages and benefits of airline subcontracted passenger service workers at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey airports, especially the 4,000 employed at Newark Liberty International Airport. We have met with workers that support flight and terminal operations at Newark Liberty. They have shared with us the negative impacts of low wages and benefits and the reluctance of the Port Authority to ensure that third party contractors are in compliance with labor laws.

As you are well aware, outstanding customer service is important to any business, which is why aviation service workers play a critical role in the passenger experience. Unfortunately, many of these workers and their families struggle to survive on the low wages offered by subcontractors and rely on some form of public assistance to supplement their income. Increased wages and benefits will provide a much-needed boost to hard working aviation employees, as well as improve customer service through employee retention and productivity.

We are encouraged by the Port Authority's Board of Commissioners' initial steps taken to address depressed wages and benefits. Specifically, in April 2014, the Port Authority adopted a resolution that would allow the agency to amend new and existing agreements in order to direct airline subcontractors to raise workers' pay by \$1 per hour and to phase-in an hourly wage of \$10.10 by February 2015. The resolution also authorized the Port Authority's executive director to establish a plan for the development of enhanced wages and benefits, including health benefits, for subcontracted passenger services workers. More than a year later, the Port Authority has yet to present the plan. Our concern regarding the Port Authority's delay in moving forward with this resolution is growing.

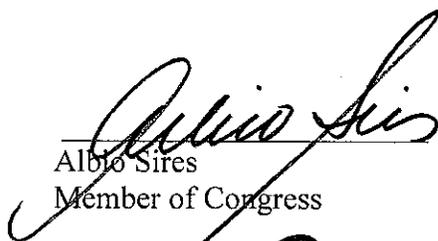
The Port Authority's *Rules for Implementation of Minimum Wage Policy for Non-Trade Labor Service Contract*, states that the policy "furthers the Port Authority's commitment to fair wages

and benefits for service workers at Port Authority facilities and by these Rules is being implemented in the first instance at LaGuardia Airport, John F. Kennedy Airport, and Newark Liberty Airport to enhance safety, security and quality of service at those facilities.”

All airport employees perform work that is vital to maintaining our aviation system. Therefore, we respectfully request the following information:

- A detailed explanation of the steps, if any, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has taken to finalize the terms and conditions of Port-Airline agreements to improve wage and benefits for airport workers.
- A detailed explanation of how the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey addresses noncompliance with vendor agreements, especially with respect to any wage, hour, or other labor standards.

Thank you in advance for your attention and cooperation with our request. Please direct your staff to coordinate your response to Madeleine Pike in Rep. Sires’ office at madeleine.pike@mail.house.gov and Thomas Saunders in Rep. Payne, Jr.’s office at Thomas.Saunders@mail.house.gov.


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress