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Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

September 14, 2026

Mr. Scott Kirby
CEO
United Airlines
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Kirby:

I write to express my concern about United Airlines' recent decision to eliminate nonstop service between Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) and Jorge Chávez International Airport (LIM) in Lima, Peru. Ending this longstanding route would have a serious impact on New Jersey communities that rely on direct service to Peru, while potentially leaving travelers with fewer choices and higher costs.

New Jersey has deep-rooted ties with Peru, with roughly 95,000 people of Peruvian origin living in the state, the third largest Peruvian population in the country.¹ New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District, and Paterson in particular, is home to one of the largest Peruvian communities in the United States. At the heart of this community is Paterson's "Little Lima," which is full of Peruvian bakeries, salons, restaurants, and other businesses.² These ties led Paterson to establish "sister city" partnerships with Machu Picchu and the Municipality of Lurigancho-Chosica in 2024 and 2025, respectively.³ For decades, our local community members have also worked to strengthen ties between Peru and the United States and rallied to support Peru in times of crisis, including the devastating 2007 earthquake.

For over 30 years, United Airlines and its predecessor Continental Airlines have maintained direct service between Newark and Lima.⁴ This route is far more than a convenience.

¹ *Peruvian Population in New Jersey by County*, Neilsberg (Oct. 1, 2025) www.neilsberg.com/nsights/lists/peruvian-population-in-new-jersey-by-county/ (citing U.S. Census Bur., *American Community Survey 2019-2023 5-Year Estimate*, www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs (last accessed Sept. 10, 2026)).

² *Why Paterson, New Jersey, Is Famous in Lima, Peru*, The Atlantic (May 18, 2016), www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/05/peruvians-paterson/483288.

³ *City of Paterson Forms Sister City Partnership with Machu Picchu*, TapInto Paterson (Aug. 24, 2024), www.tapinto.net/towns/paterson/sections/arts-and-entertainment/articles/city-of-paterson-forms-sister-city-partnership-with-machu-picchu; *Sister Cities: Paterson and Lurigancho-Chosica, Peru, Tout Special Relationship*, TapInto Paterson (March 23, 2025), www.tapinto.net/towns/paterson/sections/government/articles/sister-cities-paterson-and-lurigancho-chosica-peru-tout-special-relationship.

⁴ Continental Airlines, Annual Report (Form 10-K), at 8 (Feb. 1, 1996), www.ir.united.com/static-files/78419f6f-769e-42fb-8d5b-c8836b729422 (noting Continental Airlines—which merged with United Airlines in 2010—began service between Newark, New Jersey and Lima, Peru in 1996).

It connects New Jersey families with loved ones in Peru and supports business, tourism, and trade between our two countries. Eliminating it would force many travelers to take connecting flights or travel to other airports, adding time and expense to trips that are already prohibitively expensive.

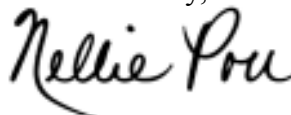
I recognize that rising fuel prices have created new challenges for the airline industry this year.⁵ United Airlines must make business decisions that reflect fast-changing market conditions. However, United has also reported increased revenues and strong passenger demand while announcing plans to expand its network. Given the company's strong business performance over the last two quarters, United Airlines should provide greater clarity about when a long-established route serving a major New Jersey community is being eliminated. This is particularly true given that United has told investors that it expects to recover 100% of higher fuel cost by the fourth quarter.⁶

The decision to eliminate the non-stop Newark-Lima route comes as United Airlines is announcing new routes to destinations in Luxemburg, Slovenia, France, and elsewhere. This growth is exciting for travelers, but new service should not come at the expense of a route that has served New Jersey's Peruvian community for decades, particularly when the Newark-Lima route has continued to see strong demand and frequently full flights. United Airlines should be able to expand its network without leaving behind communities that have relied on established routes for decades.

Given the impact this decision would have for New Jersey's Peruvian community and for travelers across the Tristate area, I am asking United Airlines to pause its plan to eliminate the Newark-Lima route and consider alternatives that could preserve direct service, including operating the route on a reduced schedule.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, along with representatives of our large Peruvian community, to discuss this decision and explore ways to preserve direct service between Newark and Lima. I hope we can work together toward a solution that keeps this important connection in place.

Sincerely,



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress

⁵ *Stock Market Today: Bond Yields Jump as Oil Climbs*, Wall St. J. (Sept. 10, 2026), www.wsj.com/finance/investing/stock-futures-rise-treasury-yields-hold-near-highs-as-oil-tops-101-74944fa2?mod=Searchresults&pos=1&page=1 (noting that as of September 10, 2026, crude futures were being traded at \$107 per barrel).

⁶ Press Release, United Airlines, Inc., United Posts Q2 Results Above Wall Street Expectations and Raises Full-Year 2026 Adjusted EPS Guidance Despite a Nearly \$6 Billion Increase in Anticipated Fuel Costs (July 15, 2026), <https://ir.united.com/static-files/ce6406f9-25c7-422a-bd4f-606597d74c85>.