



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
Joaquin Castro | Chairman
116TH CONGRESS

February 7, 2020

Mr. Ed Bastian
Chief Executive Officer
Delta Air Lines
P.O. Box 20706
Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Dear Mr. Bastian:

Leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has been advised by Delta executives that Delta Air Lines will no longer participate in certain town hall meetings concerning the release of jet fuel by Delta Flight 89 over communities in Los Angeles on January 14, 2020. We strongly recommend Delta Air Lines reconsider this decision. Our communities should not, and cannot, be ignored.

We urge Delta Air Lines to continue to participate in these important community meetings. We insist Delta Air Lines take responsibility for its role in this fuel dump, which affected four Congressional districts, three represented by Congressional Hispanic Caucus Members. We also request that Delta Air Lines disclose the specific chemical composition of the fuel that Delta Flight 89 dumped on our communities, including the details of any jet fuel additives.

As you are aware, jet fuel was dumped over populated areas, including at least six elementary schools. The full impact of this fuel dump on children and adults has yet to be fully realized. Teachers and children impacted by the fuel dump reported experiencing "the fuel on their clothes, flesh, eyes and skin. ... fuel penetrated their mouths and noses as well, producing a lasting and severe irritation, and a lasting and noxious taste and smell. The coating of fuel caused them to feel sick, dizzy, and nauseated."¹ These families also reported severe emotional distress from fear that the exposure to and ingestion of jet fuel could produce serious health consequences in the future.

The town halls occurring in these communities serve as a venue for residents to share their concerns, learn about available resources, and to hear answers to their many questions as to why fuel was dumped on their communities. We find it disappointing Delta Air Lines failed to participate in local town halls, such as the Special Meeting hosted by the South Gate City Council on January 25, 2020 and the Community Town Hall hosted by the City of Bell Gardens on January 29, 2020.


Unfortunately, Latino communities and other communities of color often experience environmental injustices compared to other affluent and predominantly white neighborhoods. As


¹ <https://www.aal.com/news/breaking-news/teachers-file-suit-against-delta-for-fuel-dump-over-los-angeles-area/24PM8Q1HFDcrQ21S86908V/>


Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, it is our duty to hold accountable polluters and industries that are causing harm to our children and families. Delta Air Lines is no exception.

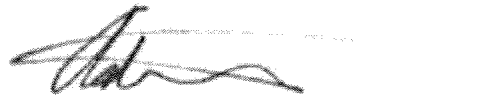
We request an emergency meeting with you to discuss what steps Delta Air Lines has taken and will take to not only ensure that this type of fuel dump never happens again, but also to provide justice to the affected communities in Los Angeles County.


Sincerely,


Joaquin Castro
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus


Ruben Gallego
First Vice Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus


Nanette Diaz Barragan
Second Vice Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Adriano Espaillat
Whip
Congressional Hispanic Caucus


Veronica Escobar
Freshman Representative
Congressional Hispanic Caucus


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress