

United States Senate

December 11, 2024

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007

Kevin O'Toole
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007

Port Authority Board of Commissioners
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Executive Director Cotton, Chairman O'Toole, and Commissioners of the Port Authority,

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to the airport service workers who make New Jersey and New York airports some of the best in the world. By championing quality job standards at Newark Liberty Airport, the Port Authority ensures the highest quality of services to welcome each and every passenger who visits the state of New Jersey. To continue our legacy as national leaders on fair and just compensation for this essential workforce, we urge the Port Authority to swiftly adopt the proposed minimum wage increase for non-trade labor service contracts at Newark Liberty, John F. Kennedy, and LaGuardia Airports.

By championing job standards in the past, the Port Authority has uplifted thousands of New Jersey's working families and shown that good airport jobs strengthen our local and state economies. Job standards have been an important investment in the quality of service at Newark Liberty Airport, ensuring the workforce that carries out the essential work of cleaning cabins, screening and handling sensitive cargo, escorting passengers with disabilities safely to their gate, providing airport security, and more has the skills and experience to provide excellence across these operations.

To continue to maintain these high standards, it is crucial that the Port Authority adopt the new proposed rule to raise wages for this workforce. Newark airport workers increasingly struggle to make ends meet at the current minimum wage. The New York-New Jersey metro area has seen nearly 4 percent inflation in the past year.¹ Without scheduled wage increases, we are likely to see increased turnover, bringing with it potential downgrades to service, safety, and efficiency. This proposed minimum wage increase is crucial to maintaining the standards we have long championed at our airports.

¹https://www.bls.gov/regions/northeast/news-release/consumerpriceindex_newyork.htm

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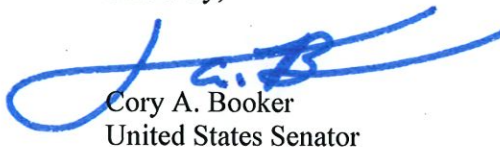
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By providing fair compensation, the Port Authority can ensure that airport jobs remain good, family-sustaining jobs that uplift our communities on both sides of the river.

I thank the Port for their attention to this issue and urge the passage of the proposed minimum wage rule.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator