



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM TONG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 8, 2025

By Email

Mr. Andrew Levy
Chief Executive Officer
Avelo Airlines
12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77046
alevy@aveloair.com

Re: *Avelo Airlines contract to operate flights for U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

Dear Mr. Levy:

As someone who has flown Avelo Airlines and has cheered Avelo's growth in Connecticut, I am deeply disappointed to learn that Avelo may have entered into a contract to operate charter flights in service to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Control and Enforcement Agency.

Let's be clear what these flights are doing. These are flights separating parents from their children. These are flights where people—men, women and children—are shackled in handcuffs, waist chains and leg irons, where [flight attendants have said there is no safe plan to evacuate people in an emergency](#). These are flights where people soil themselves because they are denied access to bathrooms. These are flights to dangerous jungle prisons in El Salvador and Guantanamo, where chained, bowed and shaved men are paraded before cameras for propaganda videos. These are flights flown overseas in [direct defiance of court orders](#) to return, and operated pursuant to a questionable declaration of war subject to active legal challenge. These are flights carrying terrified international students, [snatched off the streets](#) of their college towns for daring to protest. These are flights ordered by an administration that has sought to eliminate birthright citizenship—the core constitutional principle that has given me and so many others our futures in this country.

Violent criminals should be arrested, prosecuted, and where appropriate, deported. But Trump's cruel and reckless deportation program has unlawfully undermined legitimate law enforcement by ensnaring innocent parents, students, and children. And even when Trump's own lawyers admit to errors, they claim no ability to right their wrongs.

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None of these abusive practices are required to secure our borders, promote public safety, or effectively enforce our immigration laws. These flights are cruel by design and enormously wasteful of taxpayer resources, and no business should be complicit.

No one is forcing Avelo to operate these flights. If reporting is accurate, Avelo has freely chosen to profit from and facilitate these atrocities. The State of Connecticut has an obligation now to review this business decision and to consider the viability of our choice to support Avelo.

It is the policy of the State of Connecticut to support, honor and protect families, to uphold public safety and to defend the rule of law. [Connecticut taxpayers have supported Avelo's growth](#) in our state by exempting state taxes on aviation fuel. Connecticut public officials have joined Avelo in celebrating and promoting new routes and expanded business in our state. Such support is a policy choice that may be revisited should Avelo's business practices conflict with Connecticut priorities and policies. We are owed answers on Avelo's Homeland Security contract to determine whether Avelo's business practices can remain compatible with such state support.

1. Please provide a copy of Avelo's contract that relates to its work for Department of Homeland Security, or its agent, contractor or subcontractor.
2. Can Avelo confirm that it will not operate deportation flights from any Connecticut airport?
3. Can Avelo confirm that it will never operate flights while non-violent passengers are in shackles, handcuffs, waist chains and/or leg irons and unable to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency?
4. Should restraint be necessary for a specific individual to protect public safety, can Avelo confirm that it will never operate a flight without a safe and timely evacuation strategy for all passengers?
5. Can Avelo confirm it will never operate flights with shackled children?
6. On Saturday, March 15, a federal judge ordered the immediate return of a deportation flight destined for El Salvador operated by GlobalX. The Trump Administration refused to comply. Can Avelo confirm that it will never operate deportation flights in defiance of such court orders?
7. Can Avelo confirm it will never operate a deportation flight involving passengers for whom there is no valid order of removal?
8. Can Avelo confirm that it will never operate a flight to deport a child born on American soil?

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Absent clear, public commitments to safety and the rule of law, the Office of the Attorney General may be forced to recommend that Connecticut rescind its support for and partnership with Avelo.

Please respond no later than Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WT".

WILLIAM TONG