Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I’m writing to you today because I am concerned about how airplane contrails are contributing to climate change. I also hope to inspire you to become a pioneer in the growing movement, led by Google[[1]](#footnote-1), American Airlines[[2]](#footnote-2), and Breakthrough Energy[[3]](#footnote-3), which is raising awareness of the significant role contrails play in global warming.

Recent studies estimate the warming impact of contrails is equal to, or greater than, the warming impact of aviation’s CO2 emissions.[[4]](#footnote-4) Transitioning away from fossil fuels requires massive investment, replacement technology, and scaling. Eliminating contrails, on the other hand, is a practical solution which could immediately benefit our climate and is within reach, thanks to innovative contrail avoidance technology and forecast modeling.

Contrails form in areas of high humidity when particles emitted by an aircraft’s engine exhaust interact with water in the air. Contrails act like cirrus clouds by trapping heat radiating from Earth towards space through a phenomenon called “radiative forcing”. To prevent airplanes from leaving contrails, we simply need to slightly adjust the flight altitudes to avoid airspace likely to form contrails. Weather forecasts, satellite imagery, and current technology allow us to model, detect, and avoid contrails just as we already do for turbulence, icing, and storms.

Contrail avoidance technology is developing at a rapid pace. Successful trials have demonstrated positive results and have shown it may soon be implemented across the aviation industry.[[5]](#footnote-5) Since only a small percentage of flights create contrails, eliminating these flights offers a golden opportunity to significantly and immediately reduce the industry’s climate impact.

**We need your help to take practical steps towards reducing aviation’s climate impact and safeguard our climate.** **Please introduce legislation that encourages the implementation of contrail avoidance technologies to significantly reduce the warming impact of contrails on our climate.**

**I also ask you to collaborate with organizations who share this vision. End The Lines[[6]](#footnote-6) is an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the climate impacts of contrails and to supporting efforts to eliminate them from our skies. Please contact the Executive Director, Michael Caldwell at** **mcaldwell@endthelines.org****, who can speak to you more about model legislation.**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Concerned Citizen

1. <https://sites.research.google/contrails/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://blog.google/technology/ai/ai-airlines-contrails-climate-change/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://breakthroughenergy.org/news/contrails/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231020305689?via%3Dihub>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://blog.google/technology/ai/ai-airlines-contrails-climate-change/#footnote-2>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://endthelines.org/>; mcaldwell@endthelines.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)