



March 19, 2020

Secretary Mnuchin, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the entire U.S. civil aviation industry and the 11 million U.S. jobs we either directly represent or support economy-wide, **we sincerely request the Administration and Congress work as one to act as quickly as possible to financially protect our industry and the livelihood of our employees, who are the backbone of aviation.**

The breadth and immediacy of the need to act cannot be overstated. It is urgent and unprecedented.

The U.S. aviation industry supports all efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. We also recognize and commend the tremendous efforts of controllers, safety inspectors, security personnel and others to help support safety and the industry. Public health and the safety and wellbeing of passengers, customers and employees is our top priority. We are making daily improvements to operations and practices on aircraft, at airports and on the factory floor to protect them.

However, actions taken on a global scale have proven extremely fluid, are rapidly evolving on an almost hour-by-hour basis and have had a debilitating impact on the U.S. aviation industry and our employees. Our goal is to keep the U.S. aviation system intact and operating to the maximum extent possible to support the public health and recovery effort, keep aviation companies and related businesses large and small open and functioning during this time and ensure the livelihood of our employees.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 and the government- and business-imposed restrictions on air travel are having never-before seen impacts on U.S. aviation and our employees. In the short space of two weeks, aviation industry stakeholders have seen their positions of strong financial health deteriorate remarkably rapidly, and challenges are growing for all stakeholders. The downturn in demand for commercial air transportation and shipping related to COVID-19 is vast.

For passenger carriers alone, net bookings for the next few months are down 100 – 200 percent, as cancellations are rapidly outpacing new bookings and trending worse each day. Carriers have been forced to remove flights from their schedules and make historic capacity cuts. Pressure is growing in rural and main street America as general and business aviation that serve these communities begin to face increased economic uncertainty. The economic impact on the U.S. aviation industry, their employees, travelers and the shipping public is staggering.

The industry does not want to furlough employees; in fact, we need employees to retain their positions to be ready to lead the recovery.

What appeared to be a distant possibility just weeks ago has come to the forefront; we now face legitimate liquidity concerns and questions about our ability to meet ongoing debt obligations. This crisis hit a previously robust, healthy industry at lightning speed, and the government response needs to be just as swift, in order to save it.

In the frankest of terms, the current economic environment is simply not sustainable. The U.S. aviation industry and our employees need immediate assistance as the current economic environment continues to devolve. Our concern is compounded by the fact that the crisis does not appear to have an end in sight.

While we are trying to remain nimble to the everchanging economic circumstances and U.S. airlines have taken or planned over \$30 billion worth of 'self-help' measures in response to COVID-19 for CY2020, we are requesting the Administration and Congress take prompt action to provide immediate and medium to long-term assistance to the U.S. civil aviation industry and their employees in the form of grants, unsecured loans and limited tax measures. The survival of our industry depends on it.

The U.S. aviation industry, including key industry stakeholders, is a critical component of the U.S. economy. Civil aviation drives more than 5 percent of U.S. GDP and is necessary to the success of other industry sectors – which makes it unique in its significance to the health of the overall U.S. economy. As Congress and the Administration focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that special attention be given to the aviation industry, including key industry stakeholders, given its profound impact on the national economy and the significant impacts the virus will have on the entire industry along with the myriad of businesses that interact with aviation across the country. Providing financial stability will help the industry to sustain until there is a sufficient return in demand for air travel and cargo services. This stability will in turn help speed the recovery of the larger U.S. economy. Even with instantaneous government action it is going to take a very long time to recover.

This is a *today* problem, not a *tomorrow* problem. It requires urgent action, and the U.S. aviation industry wants to lead the way to economic recovery.

Very Respectfully,

*Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Airline Passenger Experience Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Airport Minority Advisory Council
Airport Restaurant & Retail Association
Airports Council International-North America
Airline Services Providers Association
Allied Pilots Association
American Association of Airport Executives
American Society of Travel Advisors
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Cargo Airline Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
Helicopter Association International
International Air Transport Association
International Flight Services Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Regional Airlines Association
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
Transport Workers Union of America
Travel Technology Association
Travelers United
Women in Aviation International*