



October 9, 2020

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the general aviation (GA) community, we respectfully request that you consider our industry during discussions on additional COVID-19 relief. The GA industry supports 1.2 million jobs, generates more than \$247 billion in economic output, and provides access to more than 5,000 public-use airports across the United States. The men and women of the GA industry facilitate important connections and services to small communities, many of which have little or no scheduled airline service and depend on GA airports for both transportation and significant economic activity.

Without highly skilled employees, the essential roles that our industry fulfills will cease. Aviation manufacturing workers have been hard hit and these workers must be retained to ensure our nation’s competitiveness in this vital sector. As the pandemic continues, GA demonstrates its ability to connect small communities each day. In times of need, GA businesses provide vital transport of medication, specimens, testing supplies, medical personnel, and patients in need of specialized care (including transporting passengers with compromised immune systems). In addition, GA airports provide staging areas for critical supplies to communities and bases for repatriation flights, research, agricultural service, utility surveying, and other vital functions such as organ transplants and aerial fire-fighting. They also provide service, maintenance, and fuel to the aircraft and flight crews that support these critical missions.

Our nation’s airports are home to thousands of independent small businesses providing essential aeronautical services. Many of these airports have experienced declining traffic and business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and relief is needed to support good high paying jobs, economic activity, and connectedness.



Specifically, we ask that as you deliberate COVID-19 relief legislation, consideration is given to the various facets of the GA industry. While we were pleased that H.R. 6800 included funding for GA airports, we continue to support robust funding at such levels as to enable the airport sponsors to meet their own operational needs while also providing relief of contractual and minimum annual guarantee requirements. This relief will assist a considerably broader universe of airport tenant businesses impacted by COVID-19.

To facilitate additional assistance to airports, beyond their own public operational needs, it is imperative that the formulas by which assistance is calculated adequately account for the decrease in aviation operations and fuel revenues during the pandemic. Thus, we urge you to consider future award amounts based on airport traffic levels prior to the reductions experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the relief provided to GA commercial operators and contractors under the CARES Act. Through the Payroll Support Program, many air charter operators, including air ambulance providers, retained employees and continued operations, and our industry joins the broader aviation community in supporting an extension of the PSP. The temporary relief from air transportation excise taxes also provided critical stimulus for our industry.

Finally, we urge consideration of assistance like H.R. 8002, the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act of 2020, which was introduced by Reps. Estes and Larsen and has strong bipartisan backing. The legislation is focused on retaining manufacturing jobs and protecting the aviation supply chain, composed of many small and medium sized businesses, through a cost sharing arrangement between industry and government. This assistance for aviation manufacturing, and maintenance workers will ensure the United States remains the most technology advanced, safest, and most efficient aviation system in the world. As the recovery continues, we must ensure that both airports and the many aviation industry businesses that support it, have the necessary relief needed to build and maintain aircraft and keep them flying.



Sincerely,

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Experimental Aircraft Association
Helicopter Association International
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association

cc:

Rep. Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Rep. Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Rep. Rick Larsen, Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee
Rep. Garret Graves, Ranking Member, Aviation Subcommittee