



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Democratic Leader, United States Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) represents state aviation agencies in all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. NASAO is the nationally recognized voice for the public interest in aviation on behalf of the states and territories. Our mission is to encourage and foster cooperation throughout the public sector in the development and promotion of aviation systems that can safely and effectively serve the needs of citizens, commerce and communities throughout the United States.

To that end, we write to you to encourage the Congress of the United States to follow up on the resources made available under the CARES Act from last March with a new round of aid prior to the adjournment of Congress. It is vital that you take immediate steps to ensure that the nation's airports and airlines have the financial resources and assistance needed to maintain and protect the national aviation system in the current economic crisis.

Please remember that the precipitous decline in aviation activity of all kinds has led to a corresponding drop in revenues for all types of airports, both Commercial and General Aviation. These revenue losses make it more difficult for airports to afford their debt payments and continue to meet their operational needs in keeping the airways open for commerce and the transportation of goods, services, and people. Federal aid would provide vitally needed resources to help airports manage their debt payments while meeting increased operational expenses and protecting their workforce. While the long-term effect of the current crisis on the nation's economy remains unclear, this immediate injection of funds is vital to helping airports continue critical operations and adjust to future realities. As Congress considers this issue, it is important to remember the critical role that General Aviation airports play, many of which connect rural and remote areas to the national aviation system.

State aviation agencies also recognize the importance of ensuring the survival and continuation of the nation's airlines and major users of the aviation system, both today and for the future. We encourage you to take necessary steps to provide a continuation of support to the airline industry. Federal assistance to ensure financial stability for the airline industry and for the many thousands of Americans they employ is critical in getting America's airline industry through the current crisis.

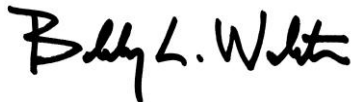
Finally, we encourage you to consider the impact of the crisis on the states, particularly state aviation agencies that depend for much of their funding on revenue from state

aviation excise taxes. These revenues have seen a corresponding decline due to the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions. These agencies play a critical role in the nation's aviation system, and the important functions they perform would benefit from Federal aid to their states.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous dislocation throughout the economy and society worldwide. We understand that there are many other sectors of the economy that may need your support as well. At the same time, we ask you to remember that the nation's aviation system is critical to interstate commerce in an intercontinental nation and deserves special consideration as we seek to preserve our economy and way of life. Far-flung parts of the nation are co-dependent on each other and can only be connected effectively by air.

Please act quickly to ensure that the nation's Aviation industry remains viable and sustainable through this crisis and into the future, as essential elements of the nation's transportation infrastructure. The nation's state aviation agencies stand ready to work with you and the Administration in protecting the best aviation system in the world.

Respectfully,



Bobby Walston, PE
Chair, NASAO Board of Directors
and Director, Aviation Division
North Carolina Department of Transportation



Gregory Pecoraro
NASAO President and CEO