



March 19, 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 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.

We urge you to provide \$10 billion in immediate support for the nation's airports through the FAA's existing Airport Improvement Program. Please know that the precipitous drop in aviation activity of all kinds is leading to a corresponding drop in revenues for all types of airports, both Commercial and General Aviation. These revenue losses will make it more difficult for airports to afford their debt payments and continue to meet their operational needs in keeping the airways open for vital commerce and transportation of goods, services, and people. These vitally needed resources will help airports manage their debt payments while meeting increased operational expenses and protecting their workforce. While no one knows the extent or duration of this crisis and its long-term effect on the nation's economy, this immediate injection of funds is vital to helping airports continue critical operations and adjust to future realities. As Congress acts 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. While Congress and the Administration will ultimately decide the form it takes, we encourage you to take necessary steps to provide immediate assistance to the airline industry. Federal support to ensure financial stability for the airline industry and for the many thousands of Americans they employ is critical in assisting them through the rapid and unforeseen economic damage done to the air passenger industry by the current crisis. As you act to support these airlines, please remember that the taxes and fees they pay to the Federal government and to state and local authorities are the lifeblood of financing

airport infrastructure and operations. We ask that you take no action to suspend or relieve those revenues.

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 Commercial and General Aviation airports remain 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,



John R. Binder III, A.A.E.
Chair, NASAO Board of Directors
and Deputy Commissioner of Aviation
Alaska DOT&PF



Gregory Pecoraro
NASAO President and CEO