



April 2, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I'm writing you regarding important provisions included in the recently passed *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020* (CARES Act) that, implemented properly, will keep thousands of hard-working Communications Workers of America (CWA) members employed.

As you know, the aviation industry has been devastated by the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, given the significant downturn in long-distance travel. This decline risked the jobs of over two million aviation industry workers, including gate agents, ramp workers, flight attendants, pilots, mechanics, caterers, cleaners, and wheelchair attendants across the country.

CWA worked hard to include the provisions in the CARES Act ensuring that the federal government will pay the wages, salaries, and benefits of airline and airport workers, most of whom were facing layoffs or involuntary furloughs. These provisions not only keep workers employed, they also ensure that airlines will be ready to proceed at full capacity as soon as widespread travel is again safe across the country.

I am concerned about a provision inserted into the bill late in the process that threatens the success of this program by giving you the ability to take ownership stakes in the airlines in exchange for the funds being used to keep workers on payroll. The simple reality is that taking a large stake in the airlines in exchange for keeping workers on payroll through September would constitute a poison pill that would likely result in the airlines not taking the aid—and therefore, tens of thousands of CWA members would lose their jobs and the airlines would face a major setback in getting back to full capacity once the crisis is handled.

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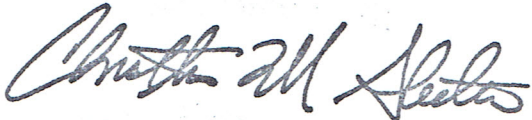
It is, of course, sensible that the public should receive a share of corporate profits if public money is being used to keep companies afloat. However, these grants are unique since the purpose of the grants is solely to keep workers on payroll, not to spend the funds on any other activities.

As you can imagine, it is unlikely that companies would be inclined to provide the public with a huge stake in ownership if the workers, not corporate leadership, are the ones receiving the benefits.

I strongly urge you not to take steps such as conditioning payroll support grants on providing the government with a large stake in recipient airlines. Doing so would jeopardize the viability of these companies and huge numbers of jobs across the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Christopher M. Shelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Shelton" being the most prominent parts.

Christopher M. Shelton
President