

United States Senate

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
US Senate
S-230, US Capitol
Washington, DC

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
US Senate
S-221, US Capitol
Washington, DC

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

We write as Congress continues discussions surrounding additional legislation to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to express our support for continued relief for aviation sector employees.

We are proud of the bipartisan and bicameral work Congress undertook earlier this year to pass the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide support for many businesses as they face unprecedented challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, including passenger air carriers. While we understand air travel levels have increased since March, they still remain far below 2019 levels. In recent weeks, several airlines have notified significant segments of their workforces that their jobs could be at risk on October 1, 2020, following the expiration of CARES Act relief. For these reasons, we support a clean extension of payroll support for passenger air carrier employees included in the CARES Act to avoid furloughs and further support those workers.

With air travel anticipated to remain low in the near future, Congress should also consider provisions to support and provide flexibility for businesses across the aviation industry similarly impacted, such as airport concessionaires and aviation manufacturing. Such businesses and their workers are uniquely tethered to air travel and have been and will continued to be significantly impacted by the decline in air travel. Congress should also renew support for our nation's airports as they continue to facilitate passengers as safely as possible.

We appreciate your work to support all businesses and workers across our nation, including the aviation industry, as they continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and we stand ready to work with you as Congress considers additional relief measures. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Martha McSally
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary, US Department of the Treasury