



November 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of our respective airlines and the entire U.S. commercial aviation industry, we write to thank you for your steadfast support of our industry and its workers. The Payroll Support Program (PSP) – created in March with bipartisan, bicameral support by the CARES Act – was integral in preventing mass aviation workforce layoffs and dramatic reductions in service to large and small communities across the United States.

Our employees are part of our nation's critical infrastructure because they play an essential role in keeping our country's air infrastructure system intact. As the nation looks forward and takes on the logistical challenges of distributing a vaccine, it will be important to ensure there are sufficient certified employees and planes in service necessary for adequate capacity to complete the task.

As you know, prior to the economic emergency created by COVID-19, commercial aviation supported more than 10 million U.S. jobs and helped to drive 5 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. U.S. passenger and cargo airlines directly employed more than 750,000 workers.

In addition to the valuable economic growth we empower, we also provide an important service in the national interest for which there is no substitute – connecting American communities, families and businesses safely, quickly and efficiently with each other and with the rest of the world.

Leveraging the support provided by the PSP, airlines have also undertaken a tremendous number of self-help measures to meet our obligations to our employees and the communities we serve.

We have also made significant enhancements to our cleaning procedures and implemented new operational protocols to ensure that our customers can fly with confidence that the multiple measures being deployed to keep them healthy are effective – a fact borne out by a recent study by Harvard University’s National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

However, as we write to you passenger volumes remain 65 percent below 2019 levels. And amid reports of increasing coronavirus cases and hospitalizations across the country, widespread government shutdowns and their impact on travel and economic activity again threaten the foundation of our industry.

We respectfully ask that you come together and extend the successful PSP this year so that we can continue to support our critical aviation workforce and infrastructure.

Your leadership is needed before the close of the 116th Congress so that this bipartisan and incredibly effective COVID-relief measure can continue to save American jobs and allow us to continue our significant role in the health of our U.S. economy.

With deepest gratitude,



Bradley D. Tilden
Chairman & CEO
Alaska Air Group



W. Douglas Parker
Chairman & CEO
American Airlines



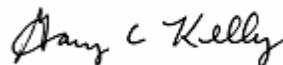
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CEO
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