

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

As representatives from all sectors of our nation's aviation industry, we want to thank you for your efforts and your continued support of this vital and varied industry as we battle the coronavirus pandemic.

The tax holiday on passenger tickets, cargo, and fuel for the remainder of 2020 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) may help serve as a catalyst to increase demand and support the industry once the immediate pandemic crisis has passed. But, the significantly reduced demand and associated tax revenue from passenger tickets and jet fuel prior to the CARES Act along with the tax holiday will most certainly lead to the insolvency of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF).

It is our understanding that both the AATF cash balance and the current uncommitted balance will be decimated by the end of this fiscal year, causing severe consequences for FAA operations and our aviation system.

As you know, the safety and efficiency of our aviation system is dependent upon funding from the AATF, which in turn is replenished almost entirely by tax revenue from users of and operators in the aviation system, including air carriers, airline passengers, cargo, and general aviation operators. In fact, more than 99 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's FY20 budget is funded through the AATF. The AATF not only supports the FAA's operation of our nation's air traffic control system, but it also provides 100% for Grants-in-Aid to Airports, more commonly known as the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which provides for important airside safety construction projects at our nation's airports, many of which are located in small and rural communities.

Given the seriousness of the situation, we appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with Congress to develop a solution to ensure the continued solvency of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airline Division/International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Airports Council International-North America
American Association of Airport Executives
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Experimental Aircraft Association
FAA Managers Association
Flight School Association of North America
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Helicopter Association International
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
NetJets
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO

cc: Representative Nita Lowey
Representative Kay Granger
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Sam Graves
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Roger Wicker
Senator Maria Cantwell