



May 18, 2020

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

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

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

Thank you for your bipartisan work in passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which is providing relief to small businesses and communities that depend on general aviation. Through provisions such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), many employers are receiving relief that allows them to retain employees, and we applaud your work to inject additional funds into that program. Even with the added funds, many businesses are still struggling to access the PPP, and others are hoping changes are made to restrictions (such as the 8-week window, the June 30 “covered period” and 75-25 forgiveness ratio) so that they can tap into PP funds.

As you know, many industries need relief. Specifically, the general aviation industry, which includes all operations outside of the military and scheduled airlines, needs such relief. These small businesses support about 1.2 million jobs, provide \$247 billion in economic impact, and connect more than 5,000 airports across the country.

As Congress considers a fourth relief package, we respectfully request that fuel taxes paid by non-commercial operators, which are predominantly small to mid-size businesses, also be suspended. This temporary suspension of taxes is similar to what the commercial airlines received and will assist thousands of small businesses, farms, and communities that depend on general aviation.

As you know, small businesses are the backbone of our economy, comprising more than 99% of American companies. These small businesses and airports have been devastated by the COVID-19 crisis, with general aviation operations down by more than 70%, and some smaller airports

facing traffic declines of up to 95%. Major aviation manufacturers and suppliers have also laid off or furloughed up to 15,000 workers nationwide, and that number is growing.

The temporary suspension of non-commercial fuel taxes will incentivize flight schools, fixed based operators, and airports, all of which support our broader economy, to resume operations as the country's economy begins to re-open and recover.

As we attempt to revitalize our economy, we need to give our small businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities every tool available to succeed, and connectivity will ultimately be critical to this effort. Extending fuel tax relief to non-commercial general aviation operators will help to ensure that these businesses and communities retain access to this vital form of transportation at a critical time for our economy and our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO

SBE Council
200 Lawyers Road NW #1506
Vienna, VA 22183

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