

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you work with Congress to negotiate various supplemental appropriations bills to help Americans and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, we urge your administration to support airports across the country and ensure that they have the resources necessary to deal with this public health crisis.

Airports play a key role in our local and regional economies and ensure our constituents have access to the national aviation system. However, the current COVID-19 outbreak is having a significant impact on airports of all sizes. The sudden drop in passenger levels has led to a rapid decline in airport revenues. According to industry association estimates, U.S. airports stand to lose nearly \$14 billion in operating revenue this year, based on preliminary data about flight cancellations to date. To make matters worse, airports are facing new operating demands, strains on their ability to meet their debt obligations and increasing pressures to reduce costs.

As your administration considers proposals to help our nation's airlines respond to this public health crisis, we urge you to ensure sufficient funding is also available to meet the needs of our nation's airports. This includes providing robust federal assistance through the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program (AIP) in any supplemental appropriations bill. The AIP has served as a critical tool in providing federal grants for airport development and planning. However, in this time, additional AIP resources should come from the General Fund and be coupled with increased flexibility by allowing airports to use revenue for cleaning equipment, operating expenses, debt service and any other lawful purpose. Furthermore, it is imperative that these resources are provided at a 100 percent federal cost share in order to make local revenue available for airports to cover personnel and operating expenses. This critical action would help airports around the country respond to new operational demands and ensure that facilities are safe and secure.

Finally, we request that you support efforts to ensure that carriers continue to provide service to small communities. When airlines are forced to make difficult financial decisions, small and rural communities are often the first to suffer. With any federal assistance, there must be safeguards in place to ensure that airlines maintain adequate service at small and medium sized airports as they were prior to the declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020.

We appreciate your attention to this important request. We stand ready to work with you and your administration to help our nation's airports – and all Americans and small businesses – cope with the growing demands of this global pandemic.

Sincerely,



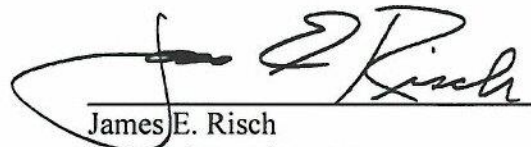
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United States Senator



Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



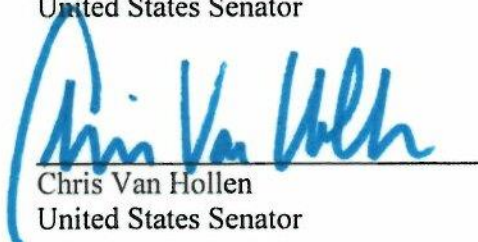
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



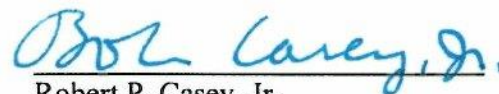
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

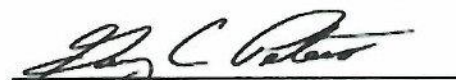
  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

  
Joe Manchin III  
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Kyrsten Sinema  
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Ron Wyden  
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United States Senator

  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

  
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United States Senator

  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



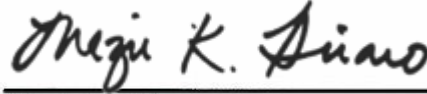
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United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator




Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



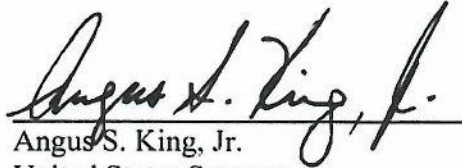
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



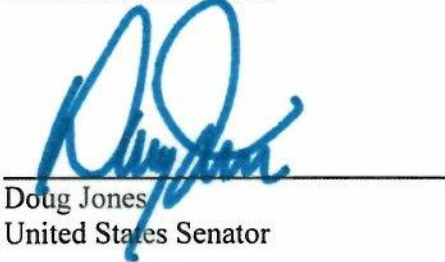
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Doug Jones  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

/s/

Jack Reed  
United States Senator