

03/29/2020 18:58:27 [LET] Letters to the Editor

Business Aviation Badly Needs Government Support: Ed Bolen

To the Editor:

Re Tom Metcalf, Thomas Black and Anders Melin's story, "Wealthy Jump to Private Jets to Duck Airlines and Cut Virus Risk" (Feb. 29):

Business aviation -- the manufacture and use of an airplane to meet a company's transportation needs -- is an essential American industry, supporting a million jobs and nearly \$250 billion in economic activity. Like many industries, it consists largely of small and mid-sized businesses, and is tied closely to U.S. economic conditions. When those conditions are as serious as we're seeing now, severe distress is the inevitable result.

That's the reality we're seeing: Aircraft manufacturers and service providers are furloughing or laying off employees, including one that recently announced 7,000 layoffs. Maintenance and repair shops - mostly family owned businesses - are being particularly hard-hit by the crisis, as airplanes sit idle. At least one family-owned maintenance company has asked employees to begin repurposing their work toward the production of protective face masks for humanitarian purposes.

Business aviation airports, like New York's Teterboro, are watching traffic dwindle by as much as 70% over the same period last year. That's bad news for the airport, but also for the FBOs, fuel providers and others on the field, as well as the hotels, restaurants and other businesses nearby.

All of this points to the larger picture missed in your report: As the U.S. economy moves rapidly from slowdown to shutdown, this critical industry, like countless others, is in need of support. This is why industry groups have joined together in seeking basic transportation excise tax relief and liquidity assistance.

By settling for sizzle over substance in a time of national crisis, Bloomberg is not only misinforming readers, but also attempting to smear a vital industry with a long history of serving the nation, and thousands of communities in times of need.

Ed Bolen
President and CEO
National Business Aviation Association
Washington, D.C.

March 27, 2020

To read the story, [click here](#).