

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Stephen M. Dickson
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Administrator Dickson:

As every American focuses their attention on stopping the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), they are being asked to stay home and practice social distancing. The FAA recognized that immediate action was needed to sustain commercial air carrier operations by issuing exemptions and deviations from regulations and policies. We are writing to request the FAA extend the same action to general aviation, which plays an equally important role in the recovery effort and the U.S. economy.

It is imperative to keep general aviation operations flying throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are a vital part of the U.S. economy and recovery effort. Medical equipment manufacturers use aircraft to deliver new equipment that helps maintain the health of patients and fight the spread of the disease; smaller aircraft observe the health of powerlines, pipelines, and sustain agriculture; and general aviation aircraft of all sizes continue to conduct humanitarian flights delivering masks, ventilators, and hygiene items to fill urgent needs. In total, general aviation contributes 1.2 million jobs and \$247 billion in economic activity to the US economy.

The general aviation industry needs regulatory exemptions and policy deviations to ensure the continuity of operations, humanitarian efforts, connectivity for rural America and commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the FAA needs to provide the following:

- Extension of airmen currency requirements;
- Extensions for certified flight instructor certificate renewal, expiration, and endorsement periods;
- Extension of knowledge exam expiration period;
- Extensions for applicants on the ability to complete practical examinations;
- Extensions for aircraft maintenance and continuing airworthiness requirements with necessary mitigation procedures, such as electronic surveillance.

These exemptions are not unprecedented. Foreign civil aviation authorities, including the Brazilian ANAC, EASA, the Italian ENAC, and the UK CAA, have already provided exemptions to both commercial and noncommercial operations.

We also appreciate your attention to ensure the distribution of CARES Act funding for general aviation airports in an expeditious way. GA airports are lifelines to our communities, especially during this time of crisis, and are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the pandemic. This critical funding will enable GA airports to remain staffed and to continue to operate safely.

We again urge the FAA to expeditiously take the important steps needed to enable the continued health of the general aviation industry, which provides important services to so many components of the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Graves", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

SAM GRAVES
MEMER OF CONGRESS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Veasey", with a large, circular flourish at the end.

MARC VEASEY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS