

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 12, 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:

On behalf of the nearly 40,000 Kansans employed in general aviation, we are writing to respectfully request additional aviation fuel tax relief to support small businesses as our nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The business and general aviation industry, which includes all operations other than scheduled airline flights and the military, supports 1.2 million American jobs and \$247 billion in economic impact.

According to data from FlightAware, business aircraft operations are down more than 70% from early March and continuing to decline. This has drastically reduced business at the 138 public-use airports in Kansas, resulting in layoffs and closures. Additionally, at least 10,000 aviation-manufacturing workers have been furloughed in our state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the collective efforts to provide near and mid-term relief for air carriers and small businesses under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and are thankful for their positive impact. However, while the CARES Act suspended certain federal excise taxes for commercial air transportation until January 1, 2021, it did not suspend non-commercial aviation fuel taxes for general aviation.

Most general and business aviation operations are non-commercial, and thus not eligible for this tax relief. As Congress considers a fourth relief package, we ask that you consider also suspending aviation fuel taxes paid by non-commercial operators. The specific taxes include the 21.9 cents per gallon tax on jet fuel, 19.4 cents per gallon tax on aviation gasoline, and 14.1 cents per gallon surtax on qualified fractional aircraft operations.

Relief from the non-commercial fuel taxes would incentivize operators to preserve jobs and resume flying once we begin to emerge from this crisis. This relief would also help small

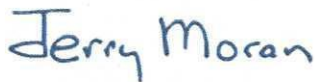
community general aviation airports in Kansas and across the nation that will be instrumental in incentivizing aviation activity as we begin to recover.

In addition to connecting small communities without airline service, general aviation has a proven track record of providing humanitarian assistance. Recently, the industry facilitated the delivery of one million protective face masks and more than half a million COVID-19 test kits from China. Other operators are using aircraft to transport medical supplies around New York and assist with the logistics of moving medical equipment around the world.

In making this request, we recognize the COVID-19 pandemic has led to challenges for the Airport & Airway Trust Fund (AATF) due to significantly reduced flight operations. However, we believe the suspension of non-commercial aviation fuel taxes would provide much-needed relief and serve as a catalyst to help small general aviation businesses recover once the immediate crisis begins to recede. In the long-run, this will benefit the aviation system, the AATF, and our entire economy.

As we continue to work on a fourth relief package, please consider the critical role that general aviation plays in our economy. The Kansas delegation looks forward to working with you on this additional fuel tax relief that is a priority for our state.

Sincerely,



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Sen. Jerry Moran



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Sen. Pat Roberts



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Rep. Roger Marshall, M.D.



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Rep. Ron Estes



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Rep. Steve Watkins



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Rep. Sharice Davids