



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Shelby and Lowey, and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

As representatives of the general aviation community, including hundreds of thousands of general aviation pilots, businesses, and manufactures, we write to thank you for your tremendous efforts to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and to respectfully request, should Congress consider supplemental appropriations, that any assistance to our nation’s airports include a specific amount be set-aside exclusively for small and general aviation airports that serve thousands of communities across the country and which have also been impacted by this situation.

General aviation airports have routinely played a critical role in ensuring that volunteer pilots can deliver goods and services during times of natural disasters and emergencies. The general and business aviation industry is comprised of a diverse fleet, capable of rapidly responding to needs in every part of the country and transporting time sensitive supplies, medical and testing equipment, organs for transplants, and key personnel and patients on demand.

Airports in small and rural communities are often the economic engines and lifelines for many towns and cities across the nation.

Now more than ever, the country will rely on our airport ecosystem, especially at airports in rural and small communities and we appreciate your positive consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
Helicopter Association International  
National Air Transportation Association  
National Business Aviation Association  
National Association of State Aviation Officials

cc:

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
The Honorable Sam Graves  
The Honorable Rick Larsen  
The Honorable Garret Graves