

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.

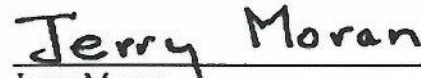
Finally, we request that you support efforts to ensure that carriers continue to provide service to small communities. When airlines are forced to make difficult financial decisions, small and rural communities are often the first to suffer. With any federal assistance, there must be safeguards in place 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,



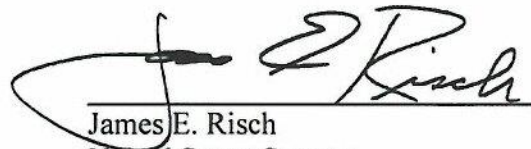
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Mike Crapo
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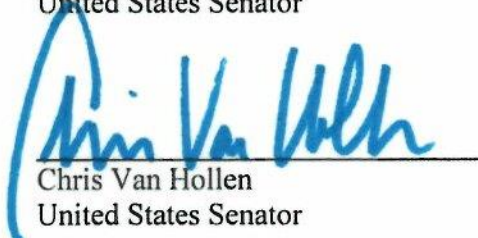
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



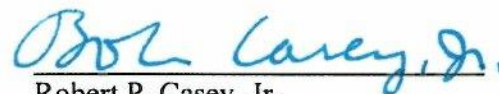
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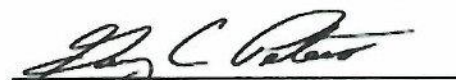

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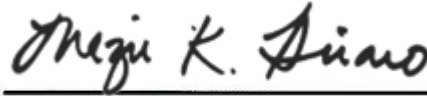
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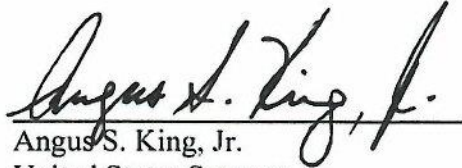
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/s/

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United States Senator