Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_:

As you pursue assistance for the financial burdens upon the aviation industry as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we ask that you give serious consideration to the crucial role of general aviation service providers to rural America and hot spots affected by the virus. My company is one of the many small businesses, which are part of an industry that supports 1.2 million jobs and provides over $247 billion in economic output. Given the large uncommitted balance of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF), which is funded in whole by aviation businesses like the mine, we believe the federal government should provide loan guarantees and assume lease obligations for essential aviation businesses through the end of this fiscal year. In addition, and in light of the surplus, we also believe an excise tax holiday for aviation fuel sales is warranted.

An essential lifeline to rural America, general aviation companies operate at nearly 4,500 airports and thousands of cities which are not served at all by the airlines. In times of crisis, they are best equipped to provide lifesaving support and time sensitive supplies.

General aviation service providers such as on-demand air carriers, fixed base operators (FBOs), and flight schools are the lynchpin that provide important connections and services to small and rural communities. Without these crucial businesses, the essential roles that GA fulfills will cease, leaving a serious void in disaster relief capabilities and diminishing the support of growth and prosperity in these locations.

The over 2,000 on demand air carriers in the U.S. operate a diverse fleet of over 10,600 registered aircraft spread across all 50 states and territories, according to the most recent statistics from the Federal Aviation Administration. They provide vital transport of medicines and testing supplies, medical personnel and patients in need of specialized care, time sensitive medical infrastructure, and other critical functions such as organ transplants. These companies fly over 3 million flight hours per year and have considerable experience operating in times of crisis.

Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) facilitate the movement of general aviation aircraft, particularly emergency response flights. The industry’s 3,661 FBOs are mainly small businesses located at thousands of public use airports across the nation. In past times of crisis, FBOs have served as critical staging hubs for general aviation operations benefiting the public.

Supporting all of this activity is a network of 5,100 Part 145 aircraft repair stations. These businesses keep general aviation moving, helping to ensure the safety and airworthiness of all aircrafts.

Thank you for your time and consideration for an industry that helps support our communities and the nation in so many vital ways.

Sincerely,