



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As you consider the next phase of coronavirus relief, we urge you to provide much needed assistance to airports and the diverse group of aviation concessionaires that provide valuable services at airport facilities across the country. Both airports and airport concessionaires have been hit hard by the pandemic and the significant loss of revenue throughout the aviation system as passenger traffic remains 60 to 70 percent below pre-pandemic levels. The impacts on airports and the businesses that serve them have been severe, and the prospects for a quick recovery are dim. Air passengers, upon whom airports and concessionaires depend, are not projected to return to pre-pandemic levels for several years at best.

As representatives of airports and a broad group of airport concessionaires, Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA); the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE); the Airport Restaurant and Retail Association (ARRA); the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC); the American Car Rental Association (ACRA); the International Association of Airport Duty Free Shops (IAADFS); and the National Parking Association (NPA) request your support for \$17 billion in identified needs for airports to respond to new operational demands; pay for debt service on bonds; keep critical health, safety, and security projects on track; and employ airport staff. Collectively, we also ask that Congress provide an additional \$3.64 billion in federal assistance to allow airports to provide “minimum annual guarantees” (MAGs) and rent relief for airport concessionaires.

Funding for airports and concessionaires is critical to the recovery of our aviation system and the broader economy. We urge the inclusion of critical assistance for both groups as part of the relief bill currently being assembled by Senate and House leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

Rob Wigington
Executive Director
Airport Restaurant and Retail Association

Anthony W. Barnes
Chief Operating Officer
Airport Minority Advisory Council

Todd Hauptli
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Association of Airport
Executives

Kevin M. Burke
President and Chief Executive Officer
Airports Council International North America

Christine Banning
President
National Parking Association

Sharon Faulkner
Executive Director
American Car Rental Association

Michael Payne
President and Chief Executive Officer
International Association of Airport Duty
Free Stores