March 23, 2020

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 manufacturers, 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