September 24, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Washington, D.C.  20220  

The Honorable Mark Meadows  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  20500

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.  20510

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.  20510

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Chief of Staff Meadows, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 23,000 employees of Alaska Air Group’s wholly owned airlines, Alaska Airlines (Alaska) and Horizon Air (Horizon), thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. We write to you today just six months from our last joint letter to request that you once again come together and sustain aviation jobs with an extension of the Payroll Support Program (PSP), created in the CARES Act, in order to prevent involuntary furloughs at our airlines.

We are the nation’s leading West Coast airline and provide critical air service to some of the most remote communities in our country. Our business has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, like others in the industry. Your March passage of the CARES Act provided an essential economic lifeline to our country and to airline employees. The PSP program directly funded employee wages and allowed us to take the time to plan for an uncertain future. Unfortunately, we now know that this crisis is lasting much longer than anyone expected in March. Our employees continue to get up every day, put on their uniforms, and safely move vital supplies and people getting them where they need to go. But we do need to reconcile costs in our business in order to survive, continue this service, and re-grow jobs and do plan involuntary furloughs to take effect when PSP funds expire next week.
Every one of our 23,000 employees have worked over the past six months to protect the safety of employees and guests, to manage our costs and operations, and to mitigate the need for involuntary furloughs. But with the PSP expiring on September 30, more than 5,700 of our employees will be impacted either through early retirements, involuntary furloughs or voluntary leaves our employees have taken to save the jobs of their coworkers. Aviation jobs are highly skilled and take time and training to add back as we re-grow, with a majority of these positions involving significant training and certifications.

We recognize many sectors are facing tough times and we hope you will find ways to provide the economic support needed on a broader scale. But this deadline and impact to our colleagues is real, and we ask that you extend the PSP program through March 31, 2021.

We are grateful for the existing bipartisan support for this extension and stand ready to work with you to prevent the involuntary furlough of our colleagues and the negative impact on their families and the economy, through extension of the PSP.

Sincerely,

Brad Tilden
Alaska Air Group Chairman and CEO

On behalf of Alaska Airlines’ represented workgroups...

Jenny Schar
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
President Local 592
Aircraft Dispatchers

Will McQuillen
ALAMEC Chairman
Air Line Pilots Association

Sito Pantoja
General Vice President
IAM Dist. 142

Jeffery Peterson
President, Alaska Airlines
Master Executive Council
Association of Flight Attendants - CWA, AFL-

CIO

Earl Clark
Region 1 Director
Aircraft Mechanic Fraternal Association

Jarod Mills
Airline Representative, Local 14
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

Mark Dahl
Airline Representative, Local 32
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On behalf of Horizon Air’s represented workgroups...

Anna Liza Niblack
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Horizon Air Carrier Representative Local 592
Aircraft Dispatchers
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Bobby Shipman
Horizon Local 14 Airline Representative
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

Lisa Davis-Warren
President, Horizon Air Master
Executive Council
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