April 10, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC  20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to inquire about your timeline for disbursing the payroll grants to aviation workers provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act). Although Congress stipulated that these payments should begin this past Monday, April 6th, it is our understanding that no payments have been made. We ask that the Treasury Department begin disbursing the payroll funds immediately to prevent the hundreds of thousands of layoffs that will result from further delay.

We know that you share our goal of keeping these essential workers paid, connected to their healthcare, and ready to take off again when the virus is contained. Our workforce has been on the front lines of fighting this pandemic from the very beginning. In the midst of a global public health crisis, we have helped millions of Americans return to their homes to shelter. We have assisted the federal government in delivering critical medical supplies to healthcare workers on the front lines and participated in the transport and care of coronavirus patients. Timely disbursement of payroll assistance will enable us to continue to perform these critical services.

Congress passed the CARES Act to provide Americans with immediate economic relief during this challenging time. They set very tight deadlines to ensure that disbursement would be simple, streamlined, and immediate, in order to save our members’ jobs and soften the economic impact on the industry. We understand the enormity of the task ahead of you as Treasury works to provide
relief to the many sectors of the economy that have been impacted by this health crisis. But with every passing day, more aviation workers are being furloughed. Timely disbursement of this assistance will keep hundreds of thousands of workers off of the unemployment rolls. We urge you to move expeditiously to keep America’s airline sector strong and to keep the men and women who transport America paid, in our jobs and contributing to our economy as taxpayers and consumers, and ready to lift off when the all clear sounds.

The strength of America’s economic recovery will depend upon a functioning aviation industry. There will be no recovery in the travel and hospitality sectors without the airlines and the workers who support the industry. If the payroll grants are delayed any further, our colleagues across the industry will lose their jobs and our aviation industry will collapse.

We look forward to your prompt response.

In solidarity,

Air Line Pilots Association
Allied Pilots Association
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Communications Workers of America
Independent Pilots Association
International Brotherhood of Teamsters-Airline Division
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Transport Workers Union of America
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