



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

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March 15, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

It has come to our attention that the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury) has yet to provide the Payroll Support Program Extension (PSP2) assistance that was included in last year's bipartisan *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021* (CRRSA, Pub. L. 116-260) to small air carriers and aviation operators.<sup>1</sup> As you know, the PSP2 assistance provided in *CRRSA* is intended to bring furloughed aviation employees back to work and to immediately support air carrier payrolls through March 31, 2021.<sup>2</sup> While we are pleased that major air carriers were able to quickly conclude agreements with the Treasury to access assistance, we are greatly alarmed that smaller, less financially secure air carriers and operators have still not received PSP2 assistance. Therefore, we are writing to urge that you immediately resolve this unnecessary and damaging bureaucratic logjam and make desperately needed assistance available to these smaller, distressed businesses as soon as possible.

In response to the unprecedented effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the United States, *CRSSA* is intended to deliver additional relief to small businesses, distressed industries, and our fellow Americans. Yet, while the Administration and the Democrat-controlled Congress focus on providing trillions of dollars in additional funds for progressive wish lists, getting previously approved bipartisan assistance into the hands of those who still need it appears to have been deprioritized. Two months have gone by with the Treasury failing to provide PSP2 assistance to small air carriers and operators, most of whom met the January 14, 2021, deadline for early consideration.<sup>3</sup> This situation is further confounded by the fact that the Treasury was

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<sup>1</sup> *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* enacted on December 27, 2020 (P.L. 116-260).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Letter to Secretary Yellen from Faye Malarkey Black, President and CEO, Regional Airline Association (March 11, 2021).

able to provide PSP2 assistance to the 12 largest air carriers very quickly, approving their applications on January 15, 2021.<sup>4</sup> While we understand the decision to prioritize large air carriers, likely to get money into the most workers' pockets as quickly as possible, it defies explanation that smaller air carriers have still not received assistance two months later.

Smaller air carriers and operators provide vital economic links to small and rural communities, employ more than 70,000 hardworking Americans,<sup>5</sup> and are a critical part of the U.S. aerospace system. Each day that goes by without PSP2 assistance is another day without a paycheck for the many families that Congress and this Administration pledged to help. It puts hundreds of small businesses at unnecessary risk of shutting down forever, meaning good people will lose their jobs and rural America will lose another transportation link because of bureaucratic delays in Washington. This must not happen, which is why we are urging you to make getting PSP2 funds to smaller air carriers and operators a greater priority and to ensure that similar delays and inequities do not plague the next extension of the Payroll Support Program (PSP3) included in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (Pub. L. 117-2).

If you have questions, please contact [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Sam Graves  
Ranking Member



Garret Graves  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Aviation

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<sup>4</sup> See Treasury, *Payroll Support Program Extension Payments*, (accessed March 12, 2021), available at <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/preserving-jobs-for-american-industry/payroll-support-program-extension-payments>.

<sup>5</sup> Letter to Secretary Yellen from Faye Malarkey Black, President and CEO, Regional Airline Association (March 11, 2021).