



WAMA

WISCONSIN AIRPORT
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

TO: U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

FROM: Brian Grefe, WAMA President & Airport Director of Central Wisconsin Airport

DATE: July 8, 2020

RE: Coronavirus Relief Package

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Mosinee

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Thank you for your past support through the CARES Act. The funding was helpful in weathering the immediate storm caused by COVID-19. The depth of the challenges is unprecedented and further help for airports is needed to meet ongoing airport operating needs, make bond payments, keep construction projects on track, and address other challenges. As you contemplate during the upcoming weeks the possibility of an additional coronavirus relief package, we urge your strong consideration of much needed additional relief for airports.

We certainly understand the many requests you are receiving from all sectors of the economy, but we believe airports are unique. Airports are a vital component to the infrastructure and additional federal funding is needed to sustain viability. In Wisconsin there are 8 commercial and more than over 80 general aviation airports located throughout the state in large and small communities. Our Wisconsin airports are economic drivers in the areas they serve. Please consider the following as a possible package is developed.

- **Commercial Service Airports: \$13 billion:** We concur with the ACI-NA assessment of \$13 billion in continued, future needs for airports across the country in the face of significantly reduced revenues due to COVID-19. Airports would use these resources to fund operations, payroll obligations, debt service requirements, existing construction projects, and recovery efforts. We support the continuation of flexibility provided to airports in the CARES Act allowing airports to use additional resources for "any purpose for which airport revenues may lawfully be used."
- **General Aviation Airports: \$1 billion - \$2 billion:** General aviation airports, which are largely supported by aviation system activity such as fuel sales, have seen their revenues diminish significantly as well. While the CARES Act provided \$100 million to general aviation airports, those resources were relatively modest considering that there are nearly 3,000 eligible GA facilities. We estimate that GA airports need an additional \$1 billion - \$2 billion to address current needs in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. These resources would help critical GA airports meet ongoing operational expenses, including payroll.
- **Increased Federal Share for Airports in the FY2021 DOT/FAA Appropriations Bill:** \$500 million: Consistent with provisions in the CARES Act as it relates to FY20 Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants, AAAE proposes to increase AIP funding so that the federal share for all AIP grants issued in FY21 is 100 percent. This would free scarce local resources for other necessary purposes, including operational expenses.

Again, thank you for your past support and future consideration. If you desire additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 715.204.2885

