March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we write to demand that any federal assistance to the aviation industry to address the rapid drop-off of worldwide travel due to the coronavirus be conditioned on the industry agreeing to take necessary steps to ensure the safety of our climate, impacted workers, and affected communities. We oppose the U.S. aviation industry’s request for $50-60 billion in unconditional assistance and any request that would allow the aviation industry to shirk its responsibility to workers or return to business as usual in the face of the climate crisis.

Status quo operation of the aviation industry is incompatible with global efforts to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Commercial aviation already accounts for 12% of all U.S. transport CO2 emissions, 2.4% of annual global CO2 emissions, and is expected to grow rapidly in the coming decades under a business as usual model.1 If emissions are not curbed, between 2020 and 2050, aviation is projected to consume over a quarter of the entire global budget for a 1.5°C warming scenario. Unfortunately, the aviation industry has successfully opposed and avoided virtually every meaningful regulation of its greenhouse pollution.

Simply put, the aviation industry must begin decarbonizing now. Accordingly, any financial assistance from Congress, tax relief, loans or grants must be conditioned upon reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the US airline industry. Specifically we request that any financial assistance to the aviation sector require:

1) **Put airline employees first.** Flight attendants, ground crews, pilots, and all the workers that support the airline industry are feeling the brunt of the impacts from the coronavirus crisis. Aviation workers cannot afford a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis, where the plight of ordinary people was an afterthought while corporations and corporate boards received outlandish support. Any bailout of the aviation industry should make sure that workers are made whole first and foremost with strong labor protections and direct payroll subsidies to flight attendants, pilots, ground workers, caterers, and other impacted workers. In the long-term, as the aviation industry transitions to an environmentally just and sustainable model, the U.S. federal government must

---

support every worker in the industry and guarantee that existing pensions are honored, health care coverage is maintained, and job transition training is provided, among other vital benefits.

2) Science-Based Emission Reductions for Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Section 231 of the Clean Air Act requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue rules to reduce greenhouse pollution for planes, just as it does for cars and trucks. Despite this clear requirement, the Trump administration has failed to establish greenhouse gas limits for aircraft. Any relief package must require EPA to issue a final rule within 18 months to regulate emissions for both in-service and new aircraft, that reduces emissions by at least 2.5% per year.

3) An Absolute Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from U.S. Airline Fleets. Congress must cap total lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. airline fleets at 2020 levels, and overall emissions must fall at least 20% per decade thereafter. These emission reduction targets must be absolute, and not employ dubious accounting mechanisms such as offsets, or rely on problematic biofuels that harm the environment, the climate, food security, and land rights.

4) Reform of Slot Usage Rules. On March 11, 2020, the Federal Aviation Administration announced a temporary waiver of the minimum slot-use requirements, under which airlines can lose their slots at congested airports if not sufficiently used. The waiver of slot-use requirements is essential to avoid the ludicrous debacle of “ghost flights” — empty aircraft that fly anyway to maintain airport gate slots — pointlessly wasting fuel and exacerbating the climate crisis. Slot use rules must be revised long-term to ensure that greenhouse pollution is minimized moving forward, rather than incentivizing inefficient and wasteful air travel.

Airline industry executives have not only relentlessly opposed common sense regulation of their industry, but recklessly failed to plan for the inevitable downturn by spending a stunning 96% of their free cash flow over the past decade on stock buybacks. Congressional bailouts that simply return to the pre-crisis status quo are unacceptable. Climate change damages will wreak havoc on a scale even greater than the coronavirus. It is time to stop repeating the mistakes of the past and ensure that any bailout of the aviation industry puts it on a path to address its threat to our climate, workers and communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

1. Center for Biological Diversity
2. 100Grannies.org for a Livable Future
3. 198 methods
4. 350 Colorado
5. 350 Eastside
6. 350 Mass Metro North Node
7. 350 Montgomery County
8. 350 Sacramento
9. 350 Santa Cruz
10. 350 Seattle
11. 350 Triangle
12. 350.org
13. 350Greenbelt
14. 350Kishwaukee (IL)
15. Alabama Interfaith Power & Light

---


16. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Fellowship
17. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
18. Animas Valley Institute
19. Anthropocene Alliance
20. Azul
21. BeanCounters Unlimited
22. Beloved Earth Community of The Riverside Church
23. Berks Gas Truth
24. Better Path Coalition
25. Beyond Extreme Energy
26. Big Reuse
27. Biofuelwatch
28. Brighter Green
29. Bronx Climate Justice North
30. Buddhists Responding - Corvallis
31. California Young Democrats Environmental Caucus
32. Canton Residents for a Sustainable, Equitable Future
33. Carolina Biodiesel, LLC
34. Center for a Competitive Waste Industry
35. Center for Climate Change and Health
36. Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University
37. Center for International Environmental Law
38. Central California Environmental Justice Network
39. CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
40. Chatham Research Group
41. Christians For The Mountains
42. Church Women United in New York State
43. Citizens Regeneration Lobby
44. Clean Energy Action
45. CleanAirNow
46. Clemson University Students for Environmental Action
47. Climate Defense Project
48. Climate Hawks Vote
49. Climate Justice Alliance
50. Co-op Power
51. CODEPINK, Long Island, NY
52. Collaborative Center for Justice
53. Columbus Community Bill of Rights
54. Concerned Citizens of Danby NY
55. Concerned Health Professionals of New York
56. Conservation Congress
57. Cooperative Energy Futures
58. Corporate Ethics International
59. Courage California
60. Crawford Stewardship Project
61. Deep Green Resistance New York City
62. Democratic National Committee Environment and Climate Crisis Council
63. Development Resource Group New York City
64. Dogwood Alliance
65. Don’t Gas the Pinelands
66. Don’t Waste Arizona
67. Down to Earth Storytelling
68. Earth Ethics, Inc.
69. Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew
70. Earth Justice Ministries
71. Echotopia LLC
72. Eco-Eating
73. Eco-Justice Collaborative
74. Ecology Party of Florida
75. Elders Climate Action
76. Endangered Habitats League
77. Endangered Species Coalition
78. Episcopal Dioceses of Mass.
79. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
80. Fire Drill Fridays
81. Food & Water Action
82. Food Empowerment Project
83. Foundacion Earth
84. Frac Sand Sentinel: Project Outreach
85. Frack Free Catskills
86. FracTracker Alliance
87. FreshWater Accountability Project
88. Fresnans against Fracking
89. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Friends of the Bitterroot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Friends of the Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Friends of the Owls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Fund for Wild Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>GASPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Genesis Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Geos Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Global Network Against Weapons &amp; Nuclear Power in Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Grassroots Global Justice Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Great Old Broads for Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Greater New York Labor- Religion Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Green Belt Movement International-NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Green Party of Butler and Venango Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>GreenLatinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Greenpeace USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Hands Across the Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Holman United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Hope Glen Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Idle No More SF Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Indigenous Environmental Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Indivisible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Inspiration of Sedona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Interfaith Oceans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Iowa Green Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Jewish Climate Action Network - MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Kickapoo Peace Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>KyotoUSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Labor Network for Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>LaPlaca and Associates LLC LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Living Rivers &amp; Colorado Riverkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Marcellus Outreach Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Mass Forest Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Mid-Missouri Peaceworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Mississippi Immigrants' Rights Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Movement Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>National Employment Lawyers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>National Law Center on Homelessness &amp; Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>National Network for Immigrant &amp; Refugee Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Native Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Nature Coast Conservation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>NC APPPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>NC WARN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>New York Communities for Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>No Coal in Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>No Sharon Gas Pipeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>North Bronx Racial Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>North Quabbin Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Northern Jaguar Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Nuclear Information and Resource Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Occidental Arts and Ecology Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Ocean Conservation Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Oceanic Preservation Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>Oil Change U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>On Behalf of Planet Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>OneMillionOfUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>Partnership for Policy Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>Partnership for Southern Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157</td>
<td>Peace Action New York State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158</td>
<td>Pelican Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
159. People Demanding Action
160. Peoples Climate Movement-NY
161. Physicians for Social Responsibility
162. Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado
163. Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
164. Popular Resistance
165. Power Shift Network
166. Poweshiek-Jasper Green Party
167. Progressive Democrats of America
168. Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson Chapter
169. Public Citizen
170. Public Lands Project
171. Rachel Carson Council
172. Radiation Truth
173. Rainforest Action Network
174. RedTailed Hawk Collective
175. Riverdale Jewish Earth Alliance
176. RootsAction.org
177. Safe Climate Campaign
178. SanDiego350
179. Santa Barbara Frack Back to Save the Central Coast
180. Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
181. Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
182. Save Our Shores
183. SAVE THE FROGS!
184. Save Wolves Now Network
185. Seeding Sovereignty
186. Sequoia ForestKeeper®
187. Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples
188. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
189. Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
190. SoCal 350 Climate Action
191. Sojourners
192. South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
193. South Texas Human Rights Center
194. Spottswoode Winery, Inc.
195. Stone Quarry House
196. Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
197. Sunflower Alliance
198. Sustainable Novato
199. Sustainable Upton
200. Synergistic Solutions
201. Syracuse Cultural Workers
202. Tar Sands Action Southern California
203. The Climate Center
204. The Climate Mobilization: Hoboken Chapter
205. The Conservation Planning Institute
206. The Daniel Initiative
207. The Democracy Collaborative
208. The Enviro Show
209. The River Project
210. Tikkun & the Network of Spiritual Progressives
211. Topanga Peace Alliance
212. Toxic Free NC
213. Transition Express Inc
214. Transition Sebastopol
215. Turtle Island Restoration Network
216. Two Mooks and a Mic
217. Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
218. Unitarian Universalist Association
219. University of Oregon Climate Justice League
220. Up Homes
221. Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
222. V-Day/One Billion Rising
223. Valley Watch, Inc.
224. Vote-Climate
225. Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
226. WATCH, Inc
227. We Own It
228. Weather Medic Inc
229. Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
230. WESPAC Foundation
231. West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
232. West End Revitalization Assn
233. WildEarth Guardians
234. WilderUtopia
235. WildWest Institute
236. Women’s Earth and Climate Action
    Network (WECAN)
237. Young Democrats of America
238. Zero Hour