



PRESIDENT'S DEPARTMENT

# AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION • WWW.ALPA.ORG

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March 16, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

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

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

Dear Mr. President, Madam Speaker, and Leader McConnell:

The public-health and economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have created an extraordinary challenge in the U.S. airline industry—and airline pilots know that a solution is within reach if we rise to it through an equally extraordinary partnership among policymakers, lawmakers, airline management, and airline industry workers.

ALPA members recognize that stabilizing the U.S. airline industry and restoring its indispensable role as a driver for America's economy and supply chain is critical—as is protecting the hard-working Americans who make it possible. We are unequivocal that any economic relief package must contain strong labor protections for the airline employees who have—or will—suffer financial harm, experience quarantine or treatment, or need to care for a loved one.

As president of ALPA, which is not only the world's largest pilot union but also the world's largest nongovernmental aviation safety organization, I can tell you that airline pilots' first priority is the health and safety of our families, our colleagues, and the traveling and shipping public. America's airline pilots remain focused, first and foremost, on keeping flying safe.

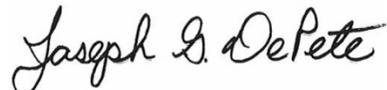
ALPA's more than 63,000 members are also doing our part to help keep the U.S. airline industry strong and ensure its continued contribution to the global economy as the United States seeks to address the serious public-health threat as well as its growing economic concerns. ALPA is aware that our industry's pilots and other workers are among the Americans most likely to be affected by U.S. government policy and legislation put into place to respond to the disease. ALPA members have been among the first workers to experience economic hardship: airline pilots have already been furloughed as a result of COVID-19. More furloughs will surely follow if we fail to address this challenge as partners.

Your leadership is essential at a time like this. ALPA has also asked our airlines to join us in seeking legislation that supports the needs of both industry and its employees who make it possible. At the 35 ALPA-represented pilot groups in North America, we are already working directly with individual airline management teams to negotiate agreements to keep these companies economically viable, our pilots healthy, their families protected from financial harm, and our passengers and cargo flying safely and efficiently. Any legislative or regulatory solution to stabilize the airline industry must address both the economic and labor aspects of the industry. We understand that this nation will only succeed in creating a remedy for this extraordinary situation with an unprecedented partnership among all who are involved and all who can contribute. We stand ready to do so.

From the airlines' earliest days, ALPA pilots have led the U.S. airline industry in adapting and prevailing over the unexpected. Just as they do when we are flying our aircraft, the traveling and shipping public recognize the credibility that airline pilots have earned as trusted professionals charged with protecting the safety of air transportation for all who depend on it.

With the leadership of the Administration and Congress, the United States can safeguard the public health, limit the economic toll on the airlines and support their swift recovery, and protect the airline workers who help power this incredible industry. Airline pilots can be counted on to join you in leading this country and the U.S. airline industry through the uncertainty of today toward a healthy, strong, and safe tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph G. DePete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Captain Joseph G. DePete  
President  
Air Line Pilots Association, International