



December 17, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
 Governor of New York State  
 NYS State Capitol Building  
 Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing to you as employees and employers who work to provide safe and efficient air transportation for our nation and the world. We appreciate the critical work you are doing to ensure that New York's allocation of the COVID vaccine are made based on science, implementation realities, and equity.

As you are aware, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has designated aviation workers as essential to maintaining our nation's critical infrastructure. CISA has recommended that essential workers be given priority access to personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and vaccines due to their role in providing help to ensure that the critical social and economic needs of our country and New York are met.

Aviation workers are frontline workers who either encounter the traveling public frequently or are required to perform our work in close proximity to our colleagues and perform our jobs onsite. While our employers have implemented multiple layers of protection for the well-being of the traveling public and employees, the very nature of these jobs exposes the aviation workforce to risk like other frontline workers. Nevertheless, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to deliver much needed medical supplies, personnel, and PPE to communities and people in need.

New York is one of the largest aviation markets in the U.S. and the world and our industry's role in New York's stature is irreplaceable. Commercial aviation accounts for four percent of the state's total jobs and nearly \$26 billion in annual payroll. Passenger and cargo air service provide a vital link for communities throughout the country and cities abroad and our frontline

workers are poised to play a crucial role in helping our country win the battle against COVID-19 while assisting in the ongoing economic recovery.

As our country eagerly looks towards widespread distribution of lifesaving vaccines, aviation workers are once again playing a key role. The vaccine distribution effort is complex and involves extensive collaboration between federal and state governments along with private companies. To succeed, the U.S. will need every asset available to perform optimally — including the frontline workers that keep our nation's safe and efficient air transportation and supply chain systems operational.

Given the scientific, implementation and equity considerations, we ask that you prioritize aviation frontline workers for allocation of the vaccine in your upcoming implementation plan.

Air transportation will be essential to fight back against the virus and return to normal, even if it is a new normal. As crewmembers, machinists, air traffic controllers, customer service representatives, airport workers, and recognizing other government frontline partners in the FAA, TSA, and CBP, we stand ready to carry the vaccines, medical supplies and healthcare professionals that will help our nation defeat this virus, giving us hope for a healthy future and full economic recovery.

Sincerely,

*Air Line Pilots Association, International*  
*Airline Catering Association*  
*Airlines for America*  
*Airline Passenger Experience Association-International Flight Services Association*  
*Airport Services Association*  
*Airports Council International – North America*  
*Allied Pilots Association*  
*American Association of Airport Executives*  
*Association of Flight Attendants – CWA*  
*Association of Professional Flight Attendants*  
*Cargo Airline Association*  
*Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations*  
*Independent Pilots Association*  
*International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers*  
*National Air Carrier Association*  
*National Air Traffic Controllers Association*  
*NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots*  
*Regional Airline Association*  
*Southwest Airlines Pilots Association*  
*Transport Workers Union*  
*TWU Local 556*