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March 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Financial Stability for U.S. Airline Industry

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I write to you today on behalf of the hundreds of business members of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. We are keenly aware that our local economy relies heavily on commercial aviation. As you consider the economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly urge Congress and the Administration to work swiftly to provide financial stability for the U.S. airline industry and the hard-working men and women whose livelihoods rely on it. The unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic has caused rapid, severe and unsustainable economic damage and U.S. carriers are in dire need of immediate assistance.

The rapid spread of COVID-19, coupled with government and business-imposed travel restrictions, are having an unprecedented and devastating impact on U.S. airlines. Airlines have seen an extraordinary decline in demand for air travel and inconsistent cargo volume due to business closures and shutdowns, forcing them to remove flights from their schedule and make historic capacity cuts. Demand for business and leisure travel alike has quickly deteriorated as conventions, trade shows, sporting events, meetings and vacations in our states and cities are being cancelled or postponed. This has taken and will continue to take an incredible toll on our state and local economies.

We strongly support immediate and medium to long-term federal assistance to the U.S. aviation industry. Our constituents and local economies are depending on the airline industry to come out of this in a strong position to continue to facilitate travel, tourism and commerce. As state and local leaders, we are also actively working on policies and programs that will assist those that have been impacted by this historic crisis, including the airline industry. We value their impact in our communities and want to do all we can to start an economic recovery. We recognize that even with immediate government assistance it will take time to recover, but time is of the essence. We urge you to work together to act swiftly on this matter of critical importance to all of our citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Rodney Fong  
President & CEO