April 30, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528-0001

Dear Secretary Chao and Acting Secretary Wolf:

As the United States continues to weather the ramifications of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the resulting COVID-19 illness, we are writing you today to express our deep concern at the ongoing lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) for essential, frontline workers at our nation’s airports and other transportation hubs as well as for those working on our means of mass transportation (e.g. airlines, Amtrak, etc.).

As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend that everyone wear a mask when unable to practice social distancing. For many of our nation’s transportation workers, social distancing is logistically impossible. Therefore, we request that you require the use of masks, gloves, eyewear, and any other PPE that may be appropriate for our nation’s transportation workers (such as airline ticket and gate agents, flight attendants, and those responsible for providing wheelchair or other assistance to passengers), frontline Federal employees (such as Transportation Security Officers and Customs and Border Protection officers) who have continued to diligently perform their duties, and the passengers they interact with.

Unfortunately, a Federal directive has become necessary because too many employers are not allowing their employees to protect themselves at work or are making the use of PPE optional, potentially endangering not only the employee but their families, passengers, and everyone else they come in contact with. It is our firm belief that no worker should be penalized or endangered for continuing to perform their essential job functions amid this global pandemic. By issuing this directive, the United States government would not only lead by example, they would provide critical protections to these frontline workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress
/s/ John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/ Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

/s/ Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/ Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress
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J. Luis Correa
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ro Khanna  
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/s/  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
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/s/  
Darren Soto  
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/s/  
Susan Wild  
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/s/  
Veronica Escobar  
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/s/  
Jahana Hayes  
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/s/  
Val Butler Demings  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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A. Donald McEachin  
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
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Jesús G. “Chuy” García  
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/s/  
Joe Neguse  
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Jennifer Wexton  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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