



# Commonwealth of Virginia

General Assembly

RICHMOND

June 10, 2020

John Potter  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority  
1 Aviation Circle  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Via email to [John.Potter@MWAA.com](mailto:John.Potter@MWAA.com)

Dear Mr. Potter and Members of the MWAA Board of Directors:

We are writing today to ask that the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (“MWAA”) adopt two measures – paid sick leave and recall by seniority - to minimize disruption and turnover among airline contractor employees, so that the post-pandemic return to more robust air travel will be quick, orderly and efficient.

As you know, when adopting the Airport Workers Wage Policy in 2017 and updating it in 2019, the MWAA Board declined to mandate paid sick leave for contracted airport service workers.

Furthermore, the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, granted emergency sick days to many workers, but excluded employers with more than 500 employees, which means ***the vast majority of airport and airline service workers at DCA and IAD have no access to paid sick days.***

With localities prohibited from mandating these policies under Commonwealth law, MWAA needs to act now to protect travelers and to help these vulnerable workers.

This is a public health issue. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration lists airport workers among the most vulnerable workers to a pandemic like COVID-19. We believe that it is crucial that workers not expose themselves, passengers, and other staff to the virus.

The absence of paid leave requirements for airport workers means that these workers may face insurmountable economic pressure to come to work when they may pose a risk to themselves and others. A paid sick leave requirement would protect workers, workers’ families, and passengers from COVID-19.

Secondly, we ask that you mandate that employers recall laid-off workers by

seniority. Contractors providing essential air travel services such as mobility assist, baggage handling, cabin and terminal cleaning and security have laid off hundreds of workers. The most senior workers will aid in getting airport operations back to normal more quickly.

These layoffs do more than impose terrible hardships on the workers and their families. They threaten to sever the employment relationship. When the contractors are needed to provide more robust service as the crisis abates, they may be unable to do so. MWAA has a very strong interest in assuring that the contracted-out work force performing essential airport services are well-trained, experienced and reliable, as MWAA cogently explained when it adopted the Airport Workers Wage Policy in 2017. Recalling the most senior workers first is an effective step toward meeting this goal.

MWAA should require of contractors that experienced workers be the first ones to be called back to work when operations increase.

We ask that you take action quickly to enact these two effective policies.

Kind regards,



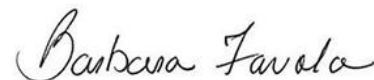
Senator Jennifer Boysko  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



Senator John Bell  
13<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Adam Ebbin  
30<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Barbara Favola  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi  
10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Janet Howell  
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36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Delegate Mark Sickles  
43<sup>rd</sup> House District



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Delegate Paul Krizek  
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Delegate Patrick Hope  
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38<sup>th</sup> House District



Delegate Mark Levine  
45<sup>th</sup> House District



Delegate Ibraheem Samirah  
86<sup>th</sup> House District



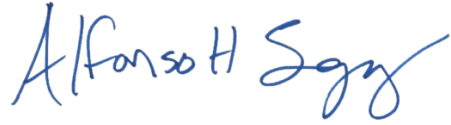
Delegate Kathleen Murphy  
34<sup>th</sup> House District



Delegate Marcus Simon  
53<sup>rd</sup> House District



Delegate Vivian Watts  
39<sup>th</sup> House District



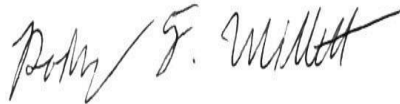
Delegate Alfonso Lopez  
49<sup>th</sup> House District



Delegate Mark Keam  
35<sup>th</sup> House District



Delegate Kathy Tran  
42<sup>nd</sup> House District



Delegate Rodney Willett  
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