



13 January 2021

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor, State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

We write to you as the management and labor leaders at Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air, representing more than 22,000 employees, to thank you for your continued leadership during this unprecedented crisis and to **urgently request your support for including front-line aviation workers at the earliest point possible in Phase 1B of Oregon’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (“Vaccination Plan”)**.

Alaska Airlines is the 5th largest U.S. commercial air carrier and the only commercial airline headquartered in the Pacific Northwest and on the West Coast. In fact, Alaska Airlines and/or Horizon Air serve four commercial airports in the state of Oregon, including Portland, Eugene, Redmond/Bend and Medford. Our combined operation serves the most passengers traveling to and from Portland International Airport, and we offer more flights to more destinations from the West Coast than any other airline, making us a vital part of the state and national transportation infrastructure. We’re proud of the important role the entire commercial aviation industry has played throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, including: transporting essential cargo, medical supplies, and personnel; maintaining critical air transportation infrastructure to support economic recovery in the months ahead; and now shipping COVID-19 vaccines— all while dealing with the devastating impacts to demand that continue to ravage our industry.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), designates aviation workers as essential to maintaining our nation’s critical infrastructure and recommends that essential workers be given priority access to personal protective equipment, testing and vaccines to ensure the critical social and economic needs of our country are met.¹ Several states have recognized this guidance by including airline workers in Phase 1B of their vaccination plans. Notably, the state of New York announced that “airline and airport employees” will be included under the definition of “Public Transit” in Phase 1B, and the state of California includes airline employees under “Transportation and logistics” in Phase 1B.² Further, our

¹ The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s guidance can be found at:

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

² New York’s vaccine priorities can be found at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a---phase-1b>; California’s vaccine priorities can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>



airlines have thousands of front-line essential workers who are unable to work from home, require high levels of interaction to do their jobs, and in many cases are not able to maintain distancing. This is the reality of the work of running an airline operation. We would respectfully urge you to take this into account when making allocation decisions as part of Oregon's Vaccination Plan.

We are so thankful for the countless frontline workers, including healthcare workers, first responders, grocery store workers, teachers and more who have worked tirelessly over the past year to care for our communities. Their work is vital to our collective well-being.

We know this work is hard, and we stand ready to assist with the state's efforts to distribute the vaccine to these critical workforces and the broader community. Specifically, we offer to provide our own staffing to aid the point of delivery strike team to expeditiously vaccinate our own employees and the community at large. Further, we look forward to working with you and our partners to strongly encourage vaccinations in the coming days and months.

Sincerely,

Brad Tilden
Chairman and CEO, Alaska Air Group

Ben Minicucci
President, Alaska Airlines

Joseph Sprague
President, Horizon Air

On behalf of Alaska Airlines' represented workgroups...

Jenny Schar
President Local 592
Transportation Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Aircraft Dispatchers

Will McQuillen
Chairman, Alaska Master Executive Council
Air Line Pilots Association



Sito Pantoja
General Vice President, Transportation
International Association of Machinists



Bret Oestreich
National Director
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Organization



Jeffrey Peterson
President, Alaska Airlines Master Executive Council
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO

On behalf of Horizon Air's represented workgroups...



Hunter Chumbley
Executive Council Chairman
Horizon Pilots - APA Local 1224
International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Lisa Davis-Warren
President, Horizon Air Master Executive Council
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL



Anna Liza Niblack
Horizon Air Carrier Representative Local 592
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Aircraft Dispatchers



Bobby Shipman
Horizon Local 14 Airline Representative
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

Cc:

- Connie Seeley, Special Advisor for COVID-19 Vaccination Implementation, Office of the Governor