

September 9, 2020

General Gustave F. Perna  
Operation Warp Speed  
Health and Human Services  
Hubert Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC

Dear General Perna:

On behalf of the National Air Carrier Association (NACA) and its members, we write to offer our significant resources to ensure the success of the critical mission of Operation Warp Speed. NACA represents more air carriers than any other association, and its members are the backbone of Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) – a valuable resource that should be fully exploited in the effort to efficiently and effectively distribute any potentially life-saving vaccine.

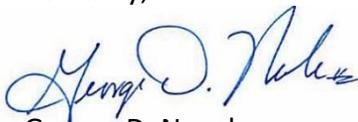
The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented and terrible challenge for our country. The impact on the lives of our families, friends, and countrymen cannot be overstated. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Administration and the governors around the country in trying to mitigate the health and economic impacts on everyone. We also are thankful for the efforts of all the professional men and women working day and night to make Operation Warp Speed a success.

However, it is our understanding there are significant logistical challenges associated with the imminent requirement for distribution of the vaccines. We are deeply concerned by the strong possibility of disruptions in the system if the effort to move vaccines across the country is restricted to only one or two large air cargo carriers. For instance, if a vaccine becomes widely available for distribution by November or December, larger cargo carriers will have significant portions of their fleet tied up providing lift for commercial customers to meet their holiday season obligations. This could slow or stall delivering doses to frontline responders, healthcare workers, and at-risk populations in every area of the country. The complexity and importance of this critical task can best be addressed by a unified national effort from significant portions of the U.S. air cargo industry. A more diversified airlift fleet can not only cover more of the U.S. population more quickly and efficiently but can also provide protection from unforeseen disruptions to an overly narrow distribution channel. Furthermore, there are cargo carriers that have proven capability in providing on-demand support with little notice throughout North America.

We speak from decades of experience, as nearly every single one of the cargo airlines we represent routinely move critical cargo and matériel for missions issued by the US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). Whether the missions are peacetime or during a conflict requiring a CRAF activation, our carriers move cargo all over the world for our service men and women. The involvement of these cargo carriers, along with others, will ensure disruptions are minimized and we are meeting this mission at the national level involving every asset, expertise and capability at our disposal.

NACA stands ready to work with you in the effort to defeat COVID, save lives, and return our economy back to a place where it performs for everyone. We look forward to a conversation with your staff to discuss how we can best contribute to ensure the success of Operation Warp Speed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George D. Novak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "G" and "N".

George D. Novak  
President and CEO  
National Air Carrier Association

cc: Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper  
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar  
Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao