



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, October 1, 2020

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NAPITA: Congress is Failing the Near-Airport Parking Industry

Air Travel-Dependent Industry Remains Barred from Accessing COVID Relief, Receives No Assistance in \$2.2 Trillion Updated Heroes Act Which Props up Competitors

WASHINGTON, DC, October 1, 2020 – Today, the Near Airport Parking Industry Trade Association (NAPITA), an association of national parking operators dedicated to providing dependable and affordable travel options that improve the customer experience at major American airports, issued the below statement following House-passage of the Updated Heroes Act (House Amendment to the Senate Amendments to H.R. 925)—a \$2.2 trillion package which provides \$13.5 billion in grants for airports with a \$3.125 billion set-aside to provide relief to on-airport car rental, on-airport parking, and in-terminal airport concessions (restaurants and retailers) without providing any relief to near-airport parking, missing the runway again on helping an industry that has not received any assistance to date:

“Congress continues to fail the near-airport parking industry, leaving NAPITA’s members to fight for our lives and our employees while federal dollars prop up our airport competitors and specifically funding on-airport parking. It is extremely disappointing, and rather than picking the pandemic’s winners and losers, we call on Congress and the Administration to grant our member companies access to relief programs, like the Paycheck Protection Program, that will help us simply survive.”

The near-airport parking industry is entirely reliant on air travel, which has been completely decimated by COVID-19; NAPITA’s operators across the country have seen more than a 95% drop in revenues. Some have even seen revenues fall to zero. Additionally, the industry’s national operators, who combined employ roughly 5,000, have had to make the incredibly difficult decisions to lay off or furlough 90% of their workforce and close a number of their parking facilities at 61 major airports because they remain unable to access federal relief purposed in providing a lifeline to the businesses hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.

Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided essential assistance to employees and various industries impacted by COVID-19. However, the law and the regulations promulgated from it actually put the small number of national near-airport parking companies in an even more precarious situation by boxing them out of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) due to number of employees and limiting access to the Main Street Lending Program by relying on calculations that make little sense for asset-based, real estate borrowers like NAPITA’s members.

At the same time, the CARES Act provided \$10 billion in direct appropriations to America’s airports to stay afloat during this significant and unprecedented downturn in travel. NAPITA’s members complement and in nearly all cases compete directly

with airports for parking customers, and airports are requiring near-airport parking operators to continue to pay access and permitting fees without any relief, further jeopardizing the ability for the industry to stay afloat.

The updated Heroes Act, passed today by the U.S. House of Representatives, includes nearly \$2.2 trillion in coronavirus response aid with \$13.5 billion in new grants for airports. Of that airport grant money, \$3.125 billion is set aside to provide relief to on-airport car rental, on-airport parking, and in-terminal airport concessions (restaurants and retailers) in the form of waiving rent, minimum annual guarantees, lease obligations, fees, or penalties, or, at the request of the owner of an in-terminal concession, to provide for a buyout of such concession. Near-airport parking and others in the airport ecosystem that operate off-airport property are not eligible. At the same time, the bill did not include any of the necessary changes that would allow NAPITA national operators to participate fully in either the PPP or the Main Street Lending Program.

Without access to any federal loan or grant programs or leniency from airport partners, the near-airport parking industry in its current form will not survive the pandemic. NAPITA stands in support of the COVID RELIEF NOW Coalition's call for "No Recess without Relief." The time to act is now as employees, businesses like NAPITA's members, and constituents across the country cannot wait another day for additional federal COVID relief.

NAPITA is not one company looking out for merely its best economic interests—it is an industry representing more than 12,000 employees and millions of customers who depend on ground transportation and world-class airport facilities to work, travel, and live. Each year, the industry sees approximately 12 million parking visits nationwide, which equates to serving nearly 25 million individual travelers. NAPITA's mission is to partner with airports and other stakeholders in the aviation industry to ensure safe, efficient, and equitable access to their airport curb for off-airport parking operators and to increase the role ground transportation plays in the broader air travel industry and the overall experience for air travelers.

NAPITA will continue to advocate for the industry and the vital role it plays within the broader aviation ecosystem.

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