



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 15, 2021

Contact: Claire Burghoff

[mcburghoff@cgagroup.com](mailto:mcburghoff@cgagroup.com)

## Near Airport Parking Industry Trade Association Hosts Rep. Gimenez for Visit at Miami International

*House T&I Member Visits NAPITA Member Facility at MIA, Learns about Airport Curb Management Access Firsthand*

**MIAMI, FL**, October 14, 2021 – Today, Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R-FL-26) joined the Near Airport Parking Industry Trade Association (NAPITA) for a Member Ride-Along at Park ‘N Fly at Miami International Airport (MIA).

NAPITA, an association of national parking operators dedicated to providing dependable and affordable travel options that improve the guest experience at major American airports, welcomed Rep. Gimenez, the former Mayor of Miami-Dade County, at Park ‘N Fly – Miami where Rep. Gimenez heard firsthand about the issues facing the air-travel-dependent industry, which was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and remains unable to access federal aid. NAPITA’s members are an important part of and voice within the aviation ecosystem as a growing number of stakeholders seeking access to limited curb space at America’s airports.

**Jeff Foland, CEO of The Parking Spot and Chairman of the NAPITA Board**, said, “We always welcome the opportunity to talk with policymakers about the importance of our industry’s services and how they complement and fit within the competitive landscape of ground transportation offerings at airports. Showcasing where we serve customers at the airport curb and how much discretion each airport has in determining the cost of that access is, we believe, quite illustrative in explaining the inequity our operators face.”



Ground transportation operators are vital partners to the aviation industry. Upwards of 10,000,000 Americans choose to park with a NAPITA member. However, airports unilaterally control access to their curbs for all types of ground transportation, including taxis, limos, ride-share services, rental cars, etc.

The curb space at our nation's airports is not only important for the safety and security of the airport, but it is also a scarce resource for an increasing number of travelers and the ground transportation industry and becomes more congested by the day. Just as delays on the tarmac harm economic productivity, issues at the curb lead to missed flights, lost time, and unhappy travelers.

Of these ground transportation operators, near-airport parking industry operators are the only ones that complement and directly compete with the airport for ground transportation services. On airport parking is available, leveraged by federal dollars, and most often prioritized by airports and their focus on revenue when crafting access policy.

At Miami International Airport, near-airport parking operators pay ground transportation fees to drop their customers at the airport curb. The airport shuttles servicing on airport parking bolstered by COVID relief funds and tax dollars pay nothing.

**Marcy Zamora, Southeast Regional Director of Park 'N Fly said,** "We manage and operate a premium off-airport parking facility in Miami by providing airport parking services to local travelers. Because of that, airports insist our parking and transportation products are a local issue. However, airports view off-airport parking facilities as their competitors but also act as their regulators. In turn, they implement anti-competitive fees which in many cases gets passed on to the local traveler. Since everything inside the airport door involves federal policy, we believe the airport curb should as well. This would then be fairer to the local traveler, so they are not subjected to disproportionate fees."

Ground transportation is a fundamental part of air travel. You quite literally cannot get on an airplane without getting to the airport first. That is why it is vitally important for federal policy makers to recognize all forms of airport ground transportation, via car, shuttle, or train, when crafting budgets and legislation related to the aviation ecosystem. The ground transportation industry has for too long been left to grapple with issues of national importance on its own, always facing a fierce challenger in the form of airports with federal funding on their side. The time is ripe to equalize this conversation and to ensure that the ground transportation industry's many employees and consumers get the benefit of non-discriminatory and reasonable airport access policy.

NAPITA is not one company looking out for merely its best economic interests—it is an industry of near-airport parking operators 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. NAPITA's mission is to partner with airports and other stakeholders in the aviation industry to ensure safe, efficient, affordable, 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.

As the national organization for near-airport parking operators, NAPITA will continue to advocate for the industry and the vital role it plays within the broader aviation ecosystem. Visit [www.napita.org](http://www.napita.org) for more information.

###