

Private Jet Industry Continues Cashing In On Trump Connections, Taking Hundreds Of Millions In COVID Bailout Money

SUMMARY: From Trump's corporate jet tax loophole to his personal White House meetings with industry leaders, private jet companies have fared well under the Trump administration.

Now, as tens of millions are unemployed and the economy spirals, private jet companies are once again on top. Demand for private flights is soaring. And following a flurry of high-expense lobbying during the first quarter of 2020, private jet companies received close to [\\$300 million](#) in corporate bailouts. Entities with close ties to the administration fared particularly well:

- **Cirrus Aviation**, which bills itself as "by far the largest private jet charter operator in Las Vegas," previously partnered with Trump's Las Vegas hotel to provide private jets for a \$620,000 engagement package that Forbes described as "for the billionaire who has everything, except a spouse." The company recently received a nearly \$1.9 billion bailout from Trump's Treasury Department, despite reports that coronavirus had bolstered the private jet industry.
- **Mayo Aviation and Presidential Aviation**, both of which chartered controversial flights that contributed to the resignations of former Trump Cabinet members Scott Pruitt and Tom Price, received roughly \$3 million each in bailout money from Trump's Treasury Department.
- **New York Stewart International Airport** reportedly houses Trump's personal private jet - and is currently bidding to be the "future headquarters" of Trump's pet Space Force project. It also received \$6.4 million in government aid.
- At least seven private jet companies with ties to **Trump donors** received nearly \$55.2 million in bailouts from Trump's Treasury Department. This includes **Pegasus Elite Aviation**, the owner of which contributed over \$11,000 to Trump's campaign.

Public backlash against private jet bailouts prompted Trump's Treasury Department to deny political favoritism. And industry executives lashed out at the media for "distorting" the truth. But as one economist stated: "It's hard to imagine anything worse. Putting up public money to support an industry that serves the rich would be hard to justify. It's absurd."

Private Jet Industry Thrived Under Trump Administration Even Prior To COVID-19 Bailouts.

Trump Tax Cuts Sparked Market "Frenzy" For Private Jets.

Trump's 2017 Tax Law Allowed Executives To Deduct 100-Percent Of Private Jet Travel From Their Taxes. "Demand for private jets has surged in recent months, as business owners and executives flock to take advantage of new provisions in the GOP tax bill that allow them to deduct 100% of a new or used plane's cost on their tax returns, reports the WSJ." [Axios, [9/16/18](#)]

Trump's Tax Cuts "Halted A Decade Of Price Falls For The Most Popular Models Of Second-Hand Private Jets." "Tax changes supported by US president Donald Trump have halted a decade of price falls for the most popular models of second-hand private jets. [...] Oliver Stone, managing director of Colibri, said it

was “a significant rebound”, which he attributed to a tax change passed by Congress and signed into law by Mr Trump at the end of 2017 after years of declining prices.” [Financial Times, [5/25/19](#)]

Headlines:

- **Axios HEADLINE:** “The GOP’s Corporate Jet Tax Loophole Sparks A Market ‘Frenzy’” [Axios, [9/16/18](#)]
- **Bloomberg HEADLINE:** “Trump Tax Law Created Breaks For Wall Street To Buy Private Jets” [Bloomberg, [2/28/19](#)]
- **NBC News Opinion HEADLINE:** “The Private Plane Tax Loophole Is So Egregious Even Millionaires Like Me Want To Close It” [NBC News, Opinion, Vice Chair of Patriotic Millionaires Stephen Price, [1/16/18](#)]
- **The Economist HEADLINE:** “Private Jets Receive Ludicrous Tax Breaks That Hurt The Environment” [The Economist, [3/7/19](#)]
- **Financial Times:** “Second-Hand Private Jet Market Boosted By Donald Trump” [Financial Times, [5/25/19](#)]

Trump Coronavirus Travel Bans Were A Boon For Private Aviation.

Skift HEADLINE: “Private Jet Bookings Surge In Europe As Trump Travel Ban Nears” [Skift, [3/12/20](#)]

Aljazeera HEADLINE: “In Wake Of Trump’s Travel Ban, The Rich Turn To Private Jets” [Al Jazeera, [5/25/20](#)]

Trump Administration Repeatedly Went To Bat For Airlines To Charge Unreasonable Or Opaque Fees.

December 2017, Bloomberg HEADLINE: “Rules Requiring Airlines to Disclose Fees Killed by Trump’s DOT” [Bloomberg, [12/7/17](#)]

May 2018: Trump’s Department Of Transportation Wrote To Congress Opposing A Senate Bill Provision That Would Have Banned “Unreasonable” Airline Fees. “The Department of Transportation (DOT) told Congress it is opposed to a provision in a Senate bill that would prohibit airline fees that are not “reasonable and proportional,” according to Reuters. In April, the House passed a bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Senate is expected to take up the issue as early as next month. The Senate Commerce Committee passed legislation last year that would extend the FAA. However, the DOT told Congress in a letter obtained by Reuters on Friday that it was opposed to the Senate bill’s fee provision that bars airlines from ‘unreasonable’ fees related to cancellation, baggage, seat selection and same-day changes.” [Aviation Pros, [5/29/18](#)]

Trump Had Deep Ties To Aviation Industry And Hosted Aviation Executives At The White House Early In His Presidency.

Trump Met With Airline Executives Roughly Two Weeks After Taking Office, Calling The Industry “Really Big Stuff, Really Amazing”

White House Press Release HEADLINE: “Remarks By President Trump In Meeting With The Aviation industry” [White House, “Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with the Aviation Industry,” [2/9/17](#)]

- **Trump Called The Airline Industry “Really Big Stuff, Really Amazing.”** “I’m thrilled to welcome the leaders of the airline industry to the White House. Your industry supports over 10 million well-paying U.S. jobs and creates almost \$1 trillion in economic activity, which is really big stuff, really amazing.” [White House, “Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with the Aviation Industry,” [2/9/17](#)]

Trump’s Business Background Gave Him A Unique Relationship With Aviation Industry

Reuters HEADLINE: “Ties Between Boeing And Trump Run Deep” [Reuters, [3/12/19](#)]

- **Trump Owned His Own Airline, Had A Private Jet, Was An “Aviation Enthusiast,” And Took “Visible Delight In The Presidential Aircraft.”** “The U.S. president, who owned his own airline, Trump Shuttle, from 1989 to 1992, is an aviation enthusiast. Before becoming president he had his own private jet and since his inauguration, he has taken visible delight in the presidential aircraft, Air Force One.” [Reuters, [3/12/19](#)]
- **Trump’s “Aviation Connections Have Expanded During His Presidency To Include Relationships With Powerful Executives.”** “His aviation connections have expanded during his presidency to include relationships with powerful executives in the defense industry, including Muilenburg, with whom he has talked several times.” [Reuters, [3/12/19](#)]

March 2020: That Private Jet Companies Could Receive “Billions In Aid” Sparked Criticism—One Economist Said Such Bailouts Would Be “Absurd.”

Amid The COVID-19 Pandemic, Private Jet Companies Stood To Receive “Billions Of Dollars In Loans, Aid, And Tax Relief From The Federal Government.” “Private-jet companies could receive billions of dollars in loans, aid and tax relief from the federal government as part of the \$2 trillion coronavirus aid package. Under the bill, private-jet charter companies and jet-card companies will receive several types of help from the federal government. First, private-jet companies will no longer have to pay a 7.5% tax. The tax, known as Federal Excise Tax, is charged to customers of private-jet charters and jet-card users. The tax won’t be charged for the rest of the year. Jet companies also won’t have to pay any fuel taxes. In addition, private-jet companies will be eligible to receive funding from the \$25 billion in loans and loan guarantees available to the aviation industry. They are also included in the \$25 billion in grant payments for the continuation of wage payments to workers. Private-jet airports and smaller airports will also receive more than \$100 million in federal funding under the bill.” [CNBC, [03/29/20](#)]

- **The CARES Act Repealed Federal Excise Tax And Fuel Taxes For Private Jet Companies Through The End Of 2020.** “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act), enacted March 27, 2020, creates an “excise tax holiday period” for certain aviation excise taxes from March 28, 2020 through December 31, 2020. [...] IRC Sections 4041 and 4081 impose taxes on fuel, including fuels used in aviation. The CARES Act considers kerosene (commonly known as jet fuel) used in commercial aviation to be a nontaxable use under IRC Section 6427(l) and provides that no tax will be imposed on kerosene used in commercial aviation under IRC Sections 4041(c) and 4081 from March 28, 2020 through December 31, 2020.” [Ernst & Young Tax News, [3/30/20](#)]

The Bailouts “Sparked Criticism,” With One Economist Calling Them “Absurd” And Arguing, “Putting Up Public Money To Support An Industry That Serves The Rich Would Be Hard To Justify.” “Yet using taxpayer funding to help an industry that caters to the wealthy has also sparked criticism. Before the bill was announced, Dean Baker, senior economist at the liberal-leaning Center for Economic Policy, told CNBC: ‘It’s hard to imagine anything worse. Putting up public money to support an industry that serves the rich would be hard to justify. It’s absurd.’” [CNBC, [03/29/20](#)]

Q1 2020: Private Jet Industry Spent Over \$640,000 Lobbying For COVID-19 Relief, Even As Demand For Private Jet Charters Was “Soaring”

In The First Quarter Of 2020 Alone, The Private Jet Industry Spent \$640,891 Lobbying On COVID Relief, Including The CARES Act.

Two Private Jet Industry Groups Spent A Combined \$640,891 Lobbying In The First Quarter Of 2020

In The First Quarter Of 2020, The National Business Aviation Association Spent \$580,000 On Lobbying, Which Specifically Included The CARES Act. [[National Business Aviation Association, Inc. LD-2 Disclosure Form](#), U.S. Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 04/20/20]

In The First Quarter Of 2020, The National Air Transportation Association Spent \$60,891 On Lobbying, Which Specifically Included “Issues Related To COVID Impact On General Aviation.” [[National Air Transportation Association LD-2 Disclosure Form](#), U.S. Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 04/19/20]

The Two Groups Spent Nearly 10 Times Less Money Lobbying In The First Quarter Of 2019

In The First Quarter Of 2019, The National Business Aviation Association Paid The Bockorny Group, Inc. \$60,000 To Lobby On Its Behalf. [[Bockorny Group, Inc. LD-2 Disclosure Form](#), U.S. Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 04/19/19]

In The First Quarter Of 2019, The National Air Transportation Association Spent \$58,000 On Lobbying. [[National Air Transportation Association LD-2 Disclosure Form](#), U.S. Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 04/19/19]

Private Jet Industry Lobbied Congress To Be Included In The CARES Act Relief Package, Comparing Their Economic Struggles To “Those Experienced After The Sept. 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks.”

The National Business Aviation Association, Which Represents The Private Jet Industry, Asked Congress “To Be Included In Any Air-Traffic Relief Package, Comparing The Airline Industry’s Current Economic Woes With Those Experienced After The Sept. 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks.” “The National Business Aviation Association, which represents private and corporate jet companies, wrote to House and Senate leaders Friday with other industry groups asking to be included in any air-traffic relief package, comparing the airline industry’s current economic woes with those experienced after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.” [Jacob Bogage, “[The private jet industry wants its own coronavirus bailout](#),” *The Washington Post*, 03/20/20]

Private Jet Industry: Some Companies “Will Not Survive The Economic Pain Brought On By” COVID-19 “Without Federal Subsidies”

The Private Jet “Industry Groups Say Some Of Their Members Will Not Survive The Economic Pain Brought On By” COVID-19 “Without Federal Subsidies.” “Industry groups say some of their members will not survive the economic pain brought on by the novel coronavirus without federal subsidies. They ask specifically for ‘medium to long-term liquidity assistance and relief from air transportation excise taxes.’” [Jacob Bogage, “[The private jet industry wants its own coronavirus bailout](#),” *The Washington Post*, 03/20/20]

... Yet, The “Demand For Private Flights Is Soaring” Amid Coronavirus.

March 2020: The “Demand For Private Flights Is Soaring” With At Least One Company’s Trip Volume Up As Much As 70 And Another Reporting “A Significant Rise In Demand For Short Notice On-Demand Private Jet Charter.” “But demand for private flights is soaring, according to CNBC, which first reported on the industry’s letter. Trip volume for Magellan, it reported, is up 70 percent in the first two weeks of March than the same period in 2019; inquiries have more than quadrupled. It reported flights on VistaJet are up 16 percent since the beginning of the year. Wheels Up said it was handling an ‘uptick in demand’ from ‘individual and

corporate members.' Charter company Private Fly wrote on its company blog, 'We've seen a significant rise in demand for short notice on-demand private jet charter, relating to the Coronavirus.'" [Jacob Bogage, "[The private jet industry wants its own coronavirus bailout](#)," The Washington Post, 03/20/20]

Skift HEADLINE: "Private Jet Bookings Surge In Europe As Trump Travel Ban Nears" [Skift, [3/12/20](#)]

Aljazeera HEADLINE: "In Wake Of Trump's Travel Ban, The Rich Turn To Private Jets" [Al Jazeera, [5/25/20](#)]

As Of April 27, 2020, 70 Private Air Carriers Received Bailouts.

As Of April 27, 2020, 70 Private Air Carriers Received Bailout Funds. "Most of the CARES Act money for the airline industry has gone to commercial or regional carriers. American, Delta, United and Southwest collectively were allotted almost \$19.5 billion, more than three-quarters of the total reserved for the passenger airline industry. But private charters haven't been left out. About 70 such companies received CARES Act funds as of April 27, according to the first round of disclosures to 96 recipients published this week." [Government Executive, [05/19/20](#)]

A Private Jet Company That Trump Used For Lavish Engagement Packages At His Las Vegas Hotel Received A Nearly \$1.9 Million Bailout.

Great Western Air, Which Does Business Under The Name Cirrus Aviation Services, Received A Nearly \$1.9 Bailout From The Trump Administration.

Great Western Air, LLC Of Las Vegas, NV, Received \$1,869,608 Under The Aviation Payroll Support Program. [Department of the Treasury, Payroll Support Program Payments, [4/29/20](#)]

State Filings Showed Great Western Air, LLC Was Doing Business As "Cirrus Aviation Services, LLC." According to filings with the Nevada Secretary of State, the domicile name of "Cirrus Aviation Services, LLC" was "Great Western Air, LLC" of Arizona, located at 4331 Cherrystone Court in Las Vegas. According to filings with the Arizona Corporation Commission, "Great Western Air, LLC" was managed by Milt Woods and located at 4331 Cherrystone Court in Las Vegas, NV. According to Woods' LinkedIn profile, he is a manager at Cirrus Aviation. [Nevada Secretary of State, Accessed [5/19/20](#); Arizona Corporation Commission, Great Western Air, LLC, [3/15/10](#); LinkedIn, Milt Woods, Accessed [5/19/20](#)]

Cirrus Aviation Partnered With Trump's Las Vegas Hotel To Provided Private Jets For A \$620,000 Engagement Package – Described As Being "For The Billionaire Who Has Everything, Except A Spouse."

February 2016: Cirrus Aviation Provided Private Jets For Trump International Las Vegas's \$620,000 Engagement Package. "There are not enough superlatives to describe this Valentine's Day package. For the billionaire who has everything, except a spouse, the Trump International Hotel Las Vegas has created an engagement extravaganza worthy of Donald Trump himself. The \$620,000 package includes everything from transportation via private jet, natch, to the jewelry bling and a 3,000-square-foot suite for three nights. The escapade starts in a Cirrus Aviation private luxury jet." [Forbes, [2/9/16](#)]

- **February 2016: Cirrus Aviation Highlighted It Was "Teaming" With Trump International Hotel Las Vegas To Provide Private Jets For A \$620,000 Engagement Package.** "Valentine's Day is almost here and if you've been waiting to pop the question, now's the time. Especially if you have \$620,000... and you're ready to spend it on someone you love. Cirrus Aviation is teaming with the best hospitality partners in Las Vegas for a perfect dream proposal package. [...] It all begins with a flight on a private luxury jet with Cirrus Aviation from any destination in the United States. Whisk your loved one away for four days and three nights in Las Vegas. [...] Next comes dinner at DJT inside the extravagant Trump International Hotel

Las Vegas. You'll enjoy a romantic dinner for two inside a dramatically designed dining room with distinguished marbled columns. You'll sit inside a plush private booth with curtains and personal lighting controls. Decadent dishes include a wild Italian porcini mushroom risotto with White Alba truffles and 24-carat gold leaf foam, complemented by a \$7,000 bottle of Armand de Brignac Brut Gold Champagne. [...] When it's time to propose, you'll bring your loved one to a luxurious 3,000-square-foot three bedroom penthouse at the Trump International Hotel in a suite full of rose petals, chocolate and champagne against the perfect backdrop of a floor-to-ceiling panoramic view of the Las Vegas Strip." [Cirrus Aviation, Blog, [2/11/16](#)]

- **Forbes: The Package Was “For The Billionaire Who Has Everything, Except A Spouse.”** "There are not enough superlatives to describe this Valentine's Day package. For the billionaire who has everything, except a spouse, the Trump International Hotel Las Vegas has created an engagement extravaganza worthy of Donald Trump himself. The \$620,000 package includes everything from transportation via private jet, natch, to the jewelry bling and a 3,000-square-foot suite for three nights. The escapade starts in a Cirrus Aviation private luxury jet." [Forbes, [2/9/16](#)]
- **As Part Of Trump Package, Cirrus Aviation "Will Pick Up The Valentine From Their Home Anywhere In The United States."** "The jet will pick up the Valentines from their home anywhere in the United States." [Forbes, [2/9/16](#)]

Cirrus Aviation Said It Was "By Far The Largest Private Jet Charter Operator in Las Vegas." "The Largest Private Jet Charter Operator in Las Vegas Cirrus Aviation Services is by far the largest private jet charter company based in Las Vegas with more flights and aircraft than our direct competitors combined. The Cirrus Aviation team has been managing and operating aircraft – commercially and privately – for more than 40 years. The family-owned business is run by President & CEO Greg Woods and Director of Operations Mark Woods, two brothers who mastered the details and demands of the aviation industry and built the foundation for Cirrus Aviation." [Cirrus Aviation, Accessed [5/19/20](#)]

Private Jet Companies Received Millions In Bailouts, Despite COVID Bolstering Their Business.

Under COVID, Private Jet Industry “Has Experienced A Peak In Demand Due To Near-Total Shutdown Of Commercial Aviation.” “The private jet industry has experienced a peak in demand due to the near-total shutdown of commercial aviation.” [Elite Traveler, [4/2/20](#)]

In Addition To Direct Federal Bailouts, Private Jet Companies Were Exempted From Federal Excise And Fuel Taxes As Part Of Coronavirus Relief. “Under the bill, private-jet charter companies and jet-card companies will receive several types of help from the federal government. First, private-jet companies will no longer have to pay a 7.5% tax. The tax, known as Federal Excise Tax, is charged to customers of private-jet charters and jet-card users. The tax won't be charged for the rest of the year. Jet companies also won't have to pay any fuel taxes.” [CNBC, [3/29/20](#)]

June 2019 Flashback: Cirrus Aviation Praised Trump’s Tax Break For Private Jets, Saying It Meant The “Market For Private Jets Is About To Explode Even Further.”

June 2019: A Cirrus Aviation Blog Post Praised Trump For The Private Jet Tax Break, Saying "The New Tax Law For Private Jets Means The Market For Private Jets Is About To Explode Even Further." "The Trump Administration has been talking for years about providing tax breaks to owners of private jets and now, they're here. They couldn't come at a better time as the market for private jets Las Vegas starts really heating up. While once it was thought that only the very wealthy used private jets to get to their destinations, now it's an opportunity younger clients are starting to seize as a ride-sharing option. The new tax law for private jets means the market for private jets is about to explode even further." [Cirrus Aviation, [6/17/19](#)]

- **Axios HEADLINE: “The GOP’s Corporate Jet Tax Loophole Sparks A Market ‘Frenzy’”** [Axios, [9/16/18](#)]

Two Aviation Companies, Hired To Charter Former Trump Cabinet Officials Scott Pruitt And Tom Price (Both Of Whom Resigned For Their Use Of Private Flights), Received Nearly \$6 Million Total In Coronavirus Relief.

Mayo Aviation, Which Was Paid Over \$5,700 For A Private Air Charter For Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Received Over \$3 Million In Coronavirus Relief.

August 4, 2017: Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Paid \$5,719.58 To Mayo Aviation For A Private Air Charter From Denver To Durango, Colorado. “Pruitt and three staff members arranged a private air charter on Aug. 4, on a trip from Denver to Durango, Colo. The flight cost \$5,719.58. According to the EPA, the commercial flight Pruitt had planned to take ‘was delayed ultimately for eight hours, which would have caused him to miss a mission critical meeting at Gold King Mine’ with Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and other officials. Hickenlooper offered a seat on his plane, but Bowman said that the governor’s aircraft only had room for Pruitt and that the EPA already had booked the private plane by then. The charter company involved, Mayo Aviation, bills itself as ‘Colorado’s premier jet charter service.’” [Washington Post, [09/27/17](#)]

July 5, 2018: Scott Pruitt Resigned As Administrator Of The EPA Following “Controversies Over His Lavish Spending, Ethical Lapses And Management Decisions.” [Washington Post, [07/05/18](#)]

May 12, 2020: Mayo Aviation Inc. Received \$3,004,182 In Coronavirus Payroll Support. [U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed [05/21/20](#)]

Presidential Aviation, Which Was Paid Over \$44,000 For A Private Air Charter For Former HHS Secretary Tom Price, Received Nearly \$3 Million In Coronavirus Relief.

May 9, 2017: Presidential Aviation, Inc. Was Awarded A \$44,531 Contract From The Department Of Health And Human Services For A Charter Flight For Former HHS Secretary Tom Price. [USASpending.gov, accessed [05/20/20](#)]

September 29, 2017: Tom Price Resigned As HHS Secretary After “Racking Up At Least \$400,000 In Travel Bills For Chartered Flights.” “Tom Price, the health and human services secretary, resigned under pressure on Friday after racking up at least \$400,000 in travel bills for chartered flights and undermining President Trump’s promise to drain the swamp of a corrupt and entitled capital.” [New York Times, [09/29/17](#)]

April 29, 2020: Presidential Aviation, Inc. Received \$2,919,322 In Coronavirus Payroll Support. [U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed [05/21/20](#)]

The Airport Housing Trump’s \$100 Million Private Jet Got Millions In CARES Act Grants And Is Now Also Bidding To Headquarter One Of Trump’s Pet Projects—The Space Force.

Trump’s Private Jet Is Housed At The New York Stewart International Airport.

In April 2019, Trump’s “\$100 Million-Plus Private Jet” Was Moved “To Signature Aviation’s Facilities” At The New York Stewart International Airport.

Trump's "\$100 Million-Plus Private Jet" Was Moved "To Signature Aviation's Facilities At New York Stewart International Airport Last Month." "Donald Trump's \$100 million-plus private jet. The Trump Organization moved the Boeing 757 from LaGuardia, where it had been hangered during the presidential campaign, to Signature Aviation's facilities at New York Stewart International Airport last month." [Judy Rife, "[Stewart new home to Trump's \\$100M private jet](#)," The Times Herald-Record, 05/21/19]

With Trump Using Air Force One, The Jet Is Used By "Trump Organization Executives."

Trump's Jet "Now Ferries Trump Organization Executives Among Their Business Interests" As He Uses Air Force One. "The president has used Air Force One since his election and his 757 now ferries Trump Organization executives among their business interests." [Judy Rife, "[Stewart new home to Trump's \\$100M private jet](#)," The Times Herald-Record, 05/21/19]

New York Stewart International Airport Received \$6.4 Million In Federal Aid From The CARES Act To Help Weather The Coronavirus Pandemic.

New York Stewart International Airport Received \$6.4 Million From The CARES Act To Help Weather The Coronavirus Pandemic.

New York Stewart International Airport "Is Getting \$6.4 Million" From The CARES Act "In Federal Aid To Help Them Through The Coronavirus Pandemic." "Airports throughout North Jersey and southern New York will get nearly \$173 million in federal aid to help them through the coronavirus pandemic, which has devastated the aviation and travel industries. [...] The money, part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, will help replace revenues lost due to a steep decline in passenger traffic due to COVID-19 [...] New York Stewart International Airport in Orange County is getting \$6.4 million." [Steve Janoski, "[North Jersey, Westchester airports to get more than \\$173M in federal coronavirus aid](#)," NorthJersey.com, 04/14/20]

New York Stewart International Airport Is Vying To Be "The Future Headquarters Of The U.S. Space Force," A New Branch Of The Military Created By Trump.

New York Stewart International Airport Is Vying To Be "The Future Headquarters Of The U.S. Space Force."

New York Stewart International Airport Is Vying To Be "The Future Headquarters Of The U.S. Space Force, America's Newest Military Branch." "New York Stewart International Airport: the final frontier? If Orange County leaders have their way, America's future Captain Kirks will study, explore and protect space from a base beside the airport and the Stewart Air National Guard Base, home to the 105th Air Wing. Orange County leaders are discussing with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials, who the run the airport, marketing the airport's campus for the future headquarters of the U.S. Space Force, America's newest military branch." [Daniel Axelrod, "[U.S. Space Force could be coming to Stewart Airport. Here are the details](#)," The Timed Herald-Record, 05/21/20]

In December 2019, Trump Officially Created The Space Force After Announcing It A Year And A Half Earlier.

On June 18, 2018 Trump Said "He Would Direct The Defense Department And The Pentagon To Create A New 'Space Force.'" "President Trump said Monday that he would direct the Defense Department and the Pentagon to create a new 'Space Force' — an independent sixth branch of the armed forces." [Sarah Kaplan and Dan Lamothe, "[Trump says he's directing Pentagon to create a new 'Space Force'](#)," The Washington Post, 06/18/18]

On December 20, 2019 "Trump Signed A \$738 Billion Defense Spending Bill" And In Doing So "Officially Created The Space Force." "When President Trump signed a \$738 billion defense spending bill

on Friday, he officially created the Space Force. It's the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Services, and the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947." [Merrit Kennedy, "[Trump Created The Space Force. Here's What It Will Actually Do.](#)" *NPR*, 12/21/19]

Private Aviation Companies Of Trump Donors Received Nearly \$55.2 Million In Bailouts.

Trump Donors From Private Aviation Companies Received Bailouts. Details can be found in the below table:

COMPANY	BAILOUT \$	EMPLOYEE	JOB TITLE	\$ TO TRUMP	\$ TO RNC
Pegasus Elite Aviation	\$3,647,106	Timothy Prero	Co-Founder, Owner, and Senior Partner	\$11,200	\$200
Tropic Ocean Airways	\$2,038,790	Ron Keiter	Chief Inspector	\$250	\$0
Channel Islands Aviation	\$1,071,365	Richard Skorpen	Director of Maintenance	\$2,463.47	\$571.38
Loyd's Aviation	\$778,595	Steven Loyd	Owner	\$1,950	\$0
Air Trek	\$672,600	A. Wayne Carr	Pilot	\$687.50	\$0
Clay Lacy Aviation	\$26,937,934	Clay Lacy	Founder	\$52,700	\$47,300
Clay Lacy Aviation	\$26,937,934	Loren Mohill	Lead Captain	\$2,763.75	\$300
Clay Lacy Aviation	\$26,937,934	Richard Hodkinson	Former VP of Aircraft Sales	\$920	\$450
Jet Linx Aviation	\$20,033,063	John Denny Carreker	CEO & Vice Chairman	\$0	\$34,900
Jet Linx Aviation	\$20,033,063	Connie Carreker	Wife of John Denny Carreker	\$16,400	\$12,900

Trump Treasury Department Denied Political Favoritism While Private Jet Executives Claimed Media Coverage "Distorts" Their Industry.

Bailouts To Private Jet Companies Tied To Trump Donors Received Widespread Media Attention.

HEADLINE: "Private Jet Company Founded By Trump Donor Gets \$27 Million Bailout." [CNBC, [05/14/20](#)]

- **Clay Lacy Aviation, A Private Jet Company Founded By A Trump Donor Received Nearly \$27 Million In Bailout Funds.** "A private jet company founded by a donor to President Donald Trump received nearly \$27 million in government funding under a program run by the Treasury Department, according to government filings. Clay Lacy Aviation, a private jet charter company based in Van Nuys, California, that serves wealthy executives and celebrities, received the government grant as part of the CARES Act, a \$2 trillion federal stimulus package aimed at supporting jobs during the coronavirus crisis." [CNBC, [05/14/20](#)]

HEADLINE: "Another Private Jet Company Owned by a Trump Donor Got a Bailout — This One for \$20 Million." [Government Executive, [05/19/20](#)]

- **Jet Linx Aviation, A Second Jet Company Owned By A Trump Donor Received \$20 Million In Bailout Funds.** "An Omaha, Nebraska-based private jet company whose principal owner donated generously to Donald Trump and Republicans ahead of the 2016 election received \$20 million in taxpayer aid from the federal bailout package passed in March. Jet Linx Aviation, which caters to well-to-do CEOs and executives, was the second private plane company founded or owned by Trump donors to receive federal

funds designated for the airline industry under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.”
[Government Executive, [05/19/20](#)]

Beyond Clay Lacy And Jet Linx, “No Other Top 10 Private Jet Company Received Federal Grants” Or Bailout Money. “Jet Linx and Clay Lacy are among the most prominent in the industry: Last year, the flight tracking firm Argus Traqpak ranked them fifth and 11th, respectively, in hours logged, according to a list of the top 25 private air charter operations. No other top 10 private jet company received federal grants.”
[Government Executive, [05/19/20](#)]

The Average Bailout For Other Private Jet Companies Was “About A Tenth Of What Jet Linx And Clay Lacy Each Received.” “The average grant amount for the 70 private jet companies to receive aid was \$2.2 million, about a tenth of what Jet Linx and Clay Lacy each received.” [Government Executive, [05/19/20](#)]

The Trump Treasury Department Denied Favoritism, Claiming “Political Affiliation Has Absolutely No Bearing” On The Private Jet Bailouts.

The Trump Treasury Department Claimed “Political Affiliation Has Absolutely No Bearing On The Payroll Support Program.” “‘The standard for determining air carrier eligibility was set by Congress on a bipartisan basis and each applicant’s eligibility is verified by the Department of Transportation before any funds are disbursed,’ a spokesperson at the Treasury Department said in an email. ‘Political affiliation has absolutely no bearing on the Payroll Support Program, including applicant eligibility, the amount of assistance provided, or use of funds.’” [Robert Frank, “[Private jet company founded by Trump donor gets \\$27 million bailout,](#)” CNBC, 05/14/20]

Private Jet Industry Trade Group Penned A Letter Complaining That The Coverage Of Its Bailouts “Distorts” And Has “Mischaracterized Business Aviation.”

President And CEO: The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) “Represents Private-Jet Companies And Owners As Well As General Aviation Companies.” [CNBC, [05/29/20](#)]

NBAA Letter HEADLINE: “CNBC Distorts Pandemic’s Impact on Business Aviation, Specifically Charter Company Clay Lacy.” [National Business Aviation Association, [05/28/20](#)]

- **The NBAA Sent A Letter Complaining To CNBC About Its Story On The Bailouts, Arguing It “Misrepresented Business Aviation Charter Company Clay Lacy.”** “A recent CNBC story misrepresented business aviation charter company Clay Lacy, and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on many companies like it, NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen and National Air Transportation Association President and CEO Tim Obitts wrote in a letter to the network.” [National Business Aviation Association, [05/28/20](#)]
- **NBAA’s Letter To CNBC: “Your Recent Story Mischaracterized Business Aviation.”** “Your recent story misrepresented business aviation, including its misrepresentation of a charter company, and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on many companies like it. We respectfully request the opportunity to set the record straight.” [National Business Aviation Association, [05/28/20](#)]