



July 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

First, thank you for all that you have done for our country during this most unprecedented time. Enactment of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-123), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) have all been huge steps forward in providing the relief that our country most desperately needs. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that was established under the CARES Act has seen great success and has been highly used within the travel and tourism industry, which is comprised mostly of small businesses. We also applaud the recent passage of the PPP Flexibility Act, which made commonsense reforms to the program that have been cheered by many industries. We are also encouraged by recent legislation being enacted that extended the PPP through August 8.

Our associations together comprise all facets of the travel and tourism industry. We represent tour operators, motorcoach companies, travel agents, student and youth travel organizations, and other brands that contribute significantly to the economy in the United States and around the world. As Congress now considers another round of COVID-19 relief/stimulus, it is imperative that they continue to take into consideration the impact the crisis is having on our industry. We are focused on the ability for our industry—and its hard-working people—to recover and return to some semblance of normalcy.

Studies show that travel industry losses will result in a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) impact of \$1.2T in 2020 and that travel declines will result in a loss of \$80B in taxes this year. Additionally, total travel spending in the U.S. is predicted to drop 45% by the end of this year and domestic travel spending is expected to fall 40% (from \$972B in 2019 to \$583B in 2020). International inbound spending is expected

to fall 75% (\$155B to \$39B). These are staggering statistics that are just a snapshot of what our industry is enduring.

Upcoming COVID-19 relief must take into account all of the different components of the travel and tourism industry and its consumers. It also must give companies more ability to retain their workers and incentivize and restore consumer confidence to travel and purchase travel goods and services. Continuing to extend, reform, and provide funding for the PPP in ways that will benefit more entities in our industry, like expanding it to include destination marketing organizations (DMOs) and other 501(c)(6) organizations and quasi-governmental entities, are positive steps. But unfortunately, they are not enough to ensure we weather this storm. With COVID-19 cases rising again in multiple states, this pandemic is far from over and Congress must act now.

Our organizations strongly support the inclusion of the following measures that are currently pending in the House and Senate:

- **The Reviving the Economy Sustainably Towards a Recovery in Twenty-Twenty (RESTART) Act (S. 3814)**, which creates a new loan program for the hardest-hit industries. The program would allow 7-year loans, capped at 45% of 2019 gross receipts up to \$12M, with 100% federal guarantee for the life of the loan, for companies with up to 5,000 employees.
- **The Jumpstarting Our Businesses' Success (JOBS) Credit Act of 2020 (H.R. 6776)**, which expands the CARES Act's Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) and makes a number of improvements to the ERTC that would be beneficial to our members, our industry, and businesses around the country.
- **The American Tax Rebate and Incentive Program (TRIP) Act (S. 4031)**, which creates a tax credit of \$4,000 per adult to take a vacation at least 50 miles away from their home, and for couples, it increases to \$8,000, plus an additional \$500 for each qualifying child (the list of eligible expenses includes food and beverages, lodging, transportation, live entertainment events, and expenses related to attending a conference or business meeting).
- **The Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act (S. 4150)**, which provides \$10B in emergency economic relief funding, in the form of grants and other economic assistance, through the U.S. Department of the Treasury, to motorcoach operators, school bus companies, U.S. flag passenger vessel operators, and other U.S. transportation service providers designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation.

All of the aforementioned pieces of legislation, or a variation of them, must be included in an upcoming COVID-19 package. There are other pending proposals that we support, but we believe these would best impact our industry, our members, the economy, and the American public. We strongly urge you to consider their inclusion in an upcoming COVID-19 package as negotiations on the package commence following the July 4 recess.

Our industry is among the hardest hit as a result of COVID-19. Our members have had to make pay cuts, conduct layoffs, and, in some cases, shut their doors completely. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that as many of our member companies survive this pandemic as possible. We believe the stimulus and relief measures outlined above will help ensure that happens. We are committed to restoring consumer confidence to travel and to ensuring a safe, and enjoyable travel experience for all.

Our associations are committed to serving as a resource for you during this time. Let's work together to bring our economy, of which our industry is a huge component, back to pre-COVID-19 levels. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Pantuso



President and Chief Executive Officer
American Bus Association

Shannon Stowell



Chief Executive Officer
Adventure Travel Trade Association

Lisa Simon, CTP



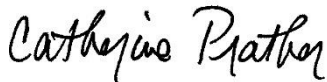
Executive Director
International Inbound Travel Association

Bronwyn Wilson



President
International Motorcoach Group

Catherine Prather, CTP



President
National Tour Association

Carylann Assante, CAE



Chief Executive Officer
Student Youth Travel Association

Larry Killingsworth



President and Chief Executive Officer
United Motorcoach Association

Terry Dale



President and Chief Executive Officer
United States Tour Operators Association