

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 19, 2022

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your continued commitment to address the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As leading organizations in America's travel and tourism industry, we respectfully urge Congress to swiftly enact federal policies that will increase demand for business and international travel and help stabilize the broader travel economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the travel industry, costing the industry over \$730 billion in lost spending since the start of the pandemic. According to Tourism Economics, domestic business travel spending will be 50% below 2019 levels in 2021 and 24% below 2019 levels in 2022. Similarly, international travel spending will be 78% below 2019 levels in 2021 and 28% below 2019 levels in 2022. Tourism Economics forecasts that without targeted federal policies to accelerate the return of business and international travel demand, both of these vital segments will not fully recover to 2019 levels until at least 2024.

To support the thousands of communities that rely on travel as a vital source of economic activity, we urge Congress to quickly take the following steps this year:

- **Pass the Restoring Brand USA Act (S. 2424 / H.R. 4594)**, which transfers \$250 million in surplus revenue from the Travel Promotion Fund to restore Brand USA's budget and support its efforts to bring back international visitors to all regions of the United States. Brand USA's budget reached historic lows in 2021 due to the steep decline in international travel fees that are used to fund the program.
- **Provide targeted tax stimulus to restore spending on business travel, live entertainment, and in-person events.** Domestic business travel spending was down 50% in 2021 compared to 2019 and recovery in the live events and entertainment sectors lag behind other areas of the economy. Temporary tax credits and deductions, such as those proposed in Sections 2 and 4 of the Hospitality and Commerce Jobs Recovery Act (S.477 / H.R.1346), would stimulate spending and quicken the pace of recovery for business travel, conferences, live entertainment, the arts, minor league sports, and other in-person events.
- **Provide additional funding for relief grants to severely impacted travel businesses** by expanding eligibility for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, or enacting a new relief program with a similar structure to RRF for travel-dependent businesses severely impaired by COVID-19 restrictions—including hotels, event planners, group tour operators, attractions, travel advisors and many others.

A full list of the near-term steps that Congress and the Biden Administration can take to fully restore the travel community can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support of our industry and the millions of workers that rely on a strong and enduring travel recovery. We look forward to working with you in this effort.

Respectfully,

ALABAMA

Alabama Tourism Department
Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives
Explore Fairbanks
Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

ALASKA

Alaska Travel Industry Association
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Eagle Bluffs
MAT-SU CVB
Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Visit Anchorage

ARKANSAS

Little Rock CVB

ARIZONA

Best Western Pony Soldier
BWH Hotel Group
Connect Worldwide
Destination Development Association
Discover Flagstaff
Experience Scottsdale
Go Lake Havasu
HelmsBriscoe
Hot Air Expeditions
Hotel Valley Ho
Metro Hospitality LLC
Olson Marketing
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
Southwest Hospitality Management
TSA Tours, Inc
Visit Mesa
Visit Phoenix

CALIFORNIA

Accor
ADARA
Amador Council of Tourism
America 4 You L.L.C.

BayEcotarium.org
Best Western Hotels of Marin County
Blazing Saddles Bike Rentals and Tours
California Travel Association
Chancellor Hotel on Union Square
City of Pismo Beach CVB
DEB Entertainment LLC
Desert Adventures
Destination Analysts
Destination Irvine
Destination Marketing Association of the West
Discover Inland Empire
EAGLERIDER
Eventis Destination Management
EZ Alliance dba Extreme Tours and EZ Tours
Fisherman's Wharf Merchants Association
Fun Roads Media Inc.
Furfine Network, LLC
Got Heat?
Greater Palms Springs CVB
Hampton Inn Ukiah
Highgate Hotels, SF
Hollywood Hotel
HPNGLOBAL NETWORK
Incredible Adventures
Karmel Shuttle Service
Kushman Hotels
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
Legends Hospitality
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board
Mammoth lakes Tourism
Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau
Newport Beach and Company
Nikko Hotels International
Noble House Hotels & Resorts
Outrigger Hotels and Resorts
Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau
Perfect Touch Event Decor

PIER 39
PKT Tours USA, Inc.
Powers of Marketing
Premier World Discovery
Ramada Santa Barbara
Rancho Cordova Travel & Tourism
Redac Hotel
Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
San Diego Tourism Authority
San Francisco International Airport
San Francisco Travel Association
San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau
Santa Monica Travel & Tourism
Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association
Six Flags Magic Mountain
Sonoma County Tourism
Southern California Coach
Sports Leisure Vacations
Starline Tours of Hollywood Inc.
Taj Campton Place
Takeoff Travelers
The Cupertino Hotel & The Grand Hotel
The Outlet Resource Group
Tour America LLC
Tourism Economics
TravDek
Travel Costa Mesa
Travel Santa Ana
US Cultural & Heritage Marketing Council
USS Midway Museum
Ventura County Lodging Association
Visit Anaheim
Visit California
Visit Concord, CA
Visit Greater Palm Springs
Visit Huntington Beach
Visit Santa Rosa
Visit Stockton
Visit Temecula Valley
Visit Vallejo
Visit Ventura
Yankee Leisure Group

COLORADO

Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center
Birdsall Marketing

Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau
Denver International Airport
Destination Colorado Meetings
destinationcoupons.com
International Tourism Marketing
Magnolia Hotel Denver, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel
Phocuswright
Rocky Mountain Holiday Tours
The Broadmoor
Vail Resorts
Vail Valley Partnership
Visit Aurora, CO
Visit Colorado Springs
Visit Denver
Visit Durango
Visit Fort Collins

CONNECTICUT

Booking Holdings Inc.
Fare Audit Inc
Tauck
Unicomm

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AAHOA
American Gaming Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Resort Development Association
American Society of Association Executives
Cruise Lines International Association
Destination DC
International Franchise Association
National Blacks in Travel & Tourism Collaborative
National Federation of Tourist Guides-USA
U.S. Travel Association

DELAWARE

Greater Wilmington CVB
Southern Delaware Tourism

FLORIDA

A Paradise Vacation Rentals
American Executive International Corp.
Arrivalist
Beach Vacation Rentals Lodging Group
Connect Travel
CutTime, LLC
Dolphin Limousine Service, Inc.
Easy Time Travel LLC

Enterprise Holdings
Experience Florida's Sports Coast
Experience Kissimmee
Express Travel
Global Hospitality Marketing Link
GMCVB
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
Hello! Destination Management
Historic Tours of America
IAAPA, The Global Association for the Attractions Industry
Innisbrook Golf Resort
InterConnect Travel LLC
JBVacations.com, Inc.
Lexicon Travel
Mary Kay Vrba Consulting
Miles Partnership
Naples Marco Island Everglades CVB
New Smyrna Beach Area Visitors Bureau
Paradise Advertising & Marketing Inc.
Personal RGE Tours and Travel
Plantation On Crystal River
Sawgrass Recreation Park
Space Tours bus.
sunny isles beach tourism and marketing council
TBO.COM
The Sisu Group LLC
Travel + Leisure Co.
Travelzoo
Vacayou Wellness Travel
Visit Orlando
Visit Panama City Beach
Visit Pensacola
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater
Visit Tampa Bay
Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach
Zimple Rentals Inc.

GEORGIA

Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau
ATL Airport District CVB
Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
Destination Augusta (GA)
Esra Calvert Consulting
Explore Brookhaven
Exposition Development Company Inc
Gather Media Network, LLC

Herschend Family Entertainment
IHG Hotels & Resorts
Prestige Travel of Dunwoody Ltd
Society of Independent Show Organizers (SISO)
Southeast Tourism Society
Travel South USA
Travelport
Visit Macon, Inc.
Visit Savannah
Visit Columbus, GA

GUAM

Guam Visitors Bureau

HAWAII

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Kaanapali Beach Hotel
Sun Islands Hawaii, Inc.

IOWA

Catch Des Moines
Iowa Travel Industry Partners
ITA Group
LeClaire, Iowa Tourism
Visit Pella- Pella CVB

IDAHO

CityPASS
Boise Metro Chamber
Go City

ILLINOIS

Abercrombie & Kent
Association Forum
Blackhawk Waterways CVB
Chicago's First Lady Cruises
Choose Chicago
City Cruises
Encore
Gray Line Chicago
Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
Hyatt Hotels Corporation
Hyatt Place - Chicago
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau
TimeZoneOne
Visit Champaign County

Visit Lake County
Hyatt Corporation
Visit Quad Cities
Chicago Department of Aviation

INDIANA

Hamilton County Tourism Inc.
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Indiana Tourism Association
SoIN Tourism
TRAVELS BY CHARLOTTE, LLC.
Visit Indy
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette
Visit South Bend Mishawaka
Cornerstone Information Systems

KANSAS

Visit Topeka
City of Fort Scott
Kansas Tourism
Overland Chauffeured Services
Visit Overland Park, Inc
Visit Shawnee

KENTUCKY

Bullitt County KY Tourism
International Inbound Travel Association
Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau
Louisville Tourism
National Tour Association
Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau
The Group Travel Leader Inc
Visit Jessamine Tourism Office
VisitLEX

LOUISIANA

Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau
Louisiana Travel Association
New Orleans & Company
Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau
Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Visit Baton Rouge
Visit Lake Charles

MASSACHUSETTS

Best Western Plus Cold Spring
GoNOMAD Travel
Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau
Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce | Visit Martha's

Vineyard
Open the Door, Inc.
See Plymouth
Southeastern Massachusetts Visitors Bureau
Sports Travel and Tours
TourMappers.com
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
TripAdvisor

MARYLAND

Access Intelligence
Caldwell CPAs
Choice Hotels International, Inc.
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
ConferenceDirect
Destinations International
Experience Prince George's
Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce
Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotels
Hostelling International USA
Incoming America Tours Inc.
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Marriott International
Marshall Hotels & Resorts
Maryland Jockey Club
Maryland Office of Tourism
Maryland Tourism Coalition
National Aquarium
Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association
PM Hotel Group
Rent-A-Tour
Schooner Woodwind Sailing Cruises
Sport and Entertainment Corp of Maryland
Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
Visit Baltimore
Visit Montgomery, MD

MAINE

Maine Tourism Association

MICHIGAN

Explore Brighton Howell Area
Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
Holland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Mackinac Island Tourism
Michigan Association of CVBs
Mt. Pleasant Area CVB

Saugatuck Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
The Henry Ford
Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan
Travel Leaders-Troy
Traverse City Tourism
Visit Detroit
Visit Muskegon

MINNESOTA

Explore Minnesota Tourism
Bloomington, MN CVB- Home of Mall of America
Language & Friendship, Inc.
Meet Minneapolis
Minneapolis Northwest Tourism
Odyssey Resorts
SearchWide Global
Visit Inver Grove Heights

MISSOURI

Branson Regional Arts Council
Branson Show League
Buchanan County, MO Tourism Board
Explore Branson
Explore St Louis
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theaters.com
Making Memories Tours
Maritz Holdings & Maritz Global Events
Midas Hospitality

MISSISSIPPI

Barkley Travel Service Inc.
Mississippi Tourism Association
Ridgeland Tourism Commission
Tishomingo County Development Foundation
Visit Columbus, Mississippi
Visit Jackson
Visit Vicksburg

MONTANA

Glacier Country Tourism

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Regional Visitor Authority/Visit Charlotte
Fayetteville (NC) Area CVB
Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
Haywood County Tourism Development Authority
Mount Airy Tourism Development Authority
No Luggage, LLC
North Carolina Travel Industry Association
Pinehurst Southern Pines Aberdeen Area CVB

Visit Greenville, NC
Visit NC
Visit Raleigh
Young Strategies, Inc.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Department of Commerce
Valley City Tourism

NEBRASKA

Columbus Area Visitors Bureau

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lakes Region Tourism Association
White Mountains Attractions Association

NEW JERSEY

American Explore Tours & Services
Dana Communications
Greater Newark Convention Visitors Bureau
Group Dining Destinations LLC
Holidaze Tours & Travel
Lead Dog Meeting & Event Management
Meet AC
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association
Tourism Diversity Matters

NEW MEXICO

Sun Tours
TOURISM Santa Fe

NEVADA

Bindlestiff Tours
Caesars Entertainment
Carson Valley Visitors Authority
Four Queens Hotel and Casino
ITRG Marketing
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Mardi Gras Hotel & Casino
MGM Resorts International
Plaza Hotel & Casino - Las Vegas, Nevada
Reno Tahoe
Resorts World Las Vegas
Travel Nevada
TravelNevada
Vegas Chamber
Venetian Resort Las Vegas
White Pine County Tourism
Windigo USA, Inc.

NEW YORK

ALON Marketing Group
American Express
B2 TRAVEL GROUP
Blue Time
Broadway Inbound
Cosmopolitan Incentives
Destination Marketing Corporation (Otsego & Schoharie Counties NY)
Destination Niagara USA
Discover Long Island
Discover Schenectady
East Shore Marketing
G2 Travel
Guides Association of New York City
InterContinental New York Barclay
Loews Hotels & Co
M&R Hotel Mgmt.
Mower
New York State Tourism Industry Association
NYC & Company
NYU Tisch Center of Hospitality
OKT Travel Inc.
Oneida County Tourism
Oswego County
RMP Travel Inc
Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
Starr Travel Insurance
Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association
TEAMAMERICA inc.
The Shubert Organization
The Wallace Hotel/The Lucerne Hotel
TrailBuddi
United States Tour Operators Association
Vamoose Bus
Visit Binghamton
Visit Buffalo Niagara
Volatour Inc.
Washington Square Hotel, LLC
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

OHIO

Butler County Visitors Bureau
Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau
Destination Cleveland
Destination Europe, LLC
Destination Mansfield-Richland County

Enjoy Oxford
Great Lakes Publishing
Lake Erie Shores & Islands
Longwoods International
National Scenic Byway Foundation
Ohio Travel Association
Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Zanesville-Muskingum County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Provident Travel
Sports Events and Tourism Association

OKLAHOMA

Chickasaw Country
Oklahoma Travel Industry Assn
Visit Stillwater

OREGON

Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau
Coraggio Group
Millennials in Travel
Oregon Coast Visitors Association, Inc.
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Portland Rose Festival Foundation
Travel Lane County
Travel Oregon
Travel Portland
Washington County Visitors Association

PENNSYLVANIA

Attractour
Bellefonte Art Museum for Centre County
Bridge Inn Pleasantville
Butler County Tourism
Chester County CVB
Discover Lancaster
Downtown State College Improvement District
Estya Hotel Milesburg (Formerly Quality Inn Milesburg)
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
Gulph Creek Development
Hospitality Asset Management Company
Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau
Judy's on Cherry, LLC
Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association
Pennsylvania's Americana Region Visitors Bureau
Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau
Pranam Narayan LLC
Reading Hotels LLC

Residence Inn by Marriott Reading
Rodeway inn
Tempest, Philadelphia
Temple University
The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau
Tussey Mountainback 50 Mile Relay and Ultramarathon
Visit Hershey & Harrisburg
Visit Philadelphia
VisitErie
Wyndham Garden State College
Penn's Cave Inc.
Visit Bucks County
Titan Hotel Group

PUERTO RICO

Discover Puerto Rico

RHODE ISLAND

Discover Newport

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bulldog Tours
Cilla Travel LLC
Coastal South Carolina USA
Explore Charleston
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber & CVB
National Golf Course Owners Association, INC
South Carolina Parks, Recreation & Tourism
VisitGreenvilleSC

SOUTH DAKOTA

Experience Sioux Falls
Hegg Companies, Inc.
South Dakota Department of Tourism
Visit Rapid City
Watertown Convention & Visitors Bureau

TENNESSEE

Bike Tours Direct LLC
Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau
Memphis Tourism
Morristown Area Chamber/Visit Morristown TN
Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp
STR
TKC Hospitality
Visit Columbia

TEXAS

2020 Exhibits
Achieva Global Meetings, LLC

Aimbridge Hospitality
AJR Media Group
Alley Theatre
Amarillo Convention and Visitors' Bureau
Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI)
Beaumont CVB
Discover Denton Texas
Geronimo Adventure Park
Grand Galvez
Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Houston Convention Bureau
Grundfos Holding
H Town Restaurant Group
Hampton I-10W Houston Energy Corridor
HFC / GHCVB
Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria
Holiday Inn Houston Downtown
Hotel Icon
Houston Airports
Houston First Corporation
Hyatt Regency Houston West
International Association of Exhibitions and Events
International Association of Venue Managers
Irving (Texas) Convention & Visitors Bureau
Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau
Joyride Houston, LLC
Lemond Kitchen
Live Nation
Meetings Professionals International
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
Nawabi Travel
NVivo
Party Parrots
Shenandoah Convention and Visitors Bureau
Sheraton Suites Houston near the Galleria/Driftwood Hospitality Management
Society for the Performing Arts Houston
The Bell Tower on 34th
The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa
Ultimate Ventures, a DMC Network Company
Uptown Management District
Visit Austin
Visit Bastrop
Visit Bay Area Houston CVB
Visit Corpus Christi
Visit Fort Worth

Visit Houston
Visit San Antonio
VisitDallas
Westin Houston Downtown

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

United States Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

UTAH

Bandwango
Heber Valley Tourism and Economic Development
San Juan County, Utah
Utah Tourism Industry Association
Zartico
Ruby's Inn
Visit Salt Lake
Grand County Utah Economic Development and Tourism

VERMONT

Vermont Lodging Association
Inn at Manchester
Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa

VIRGINIA

American Society of Travel Advisors
B-FOR International
Capital Region USA
CIC Research
Hilton
Julian Tours
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
National Park Hospitality Association
Student and Youth Travel Association
The Inn & Tavern at Meander
Tourism and Events Management, George Mason University
Travel Technology Association
Virginia Tech
Virginia Tourism Corp
Visit Fairfax
Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge
Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau

WASHINGTON

A-1 HOSPITALITY GROUP
Adventure Travel Trade Association
Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism
Corbin Ball & Co.
Event Dynamics
Expedia Group
State of Washington Tourism

Visit Kitsap
Visit Seattle
Visit Spokane
Visit Vancouver USA
Washington Tourism Alliance
Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism

WISCONSIN

Destination Door County
Destination Madison
Discover Green Bay
Holiday Vacations
VISIT Milwaukee

WEST VIRGINIA

Greater Parkersburg CVB
Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.
National Travel
North Fork Mountain Inn
Visit Southern WV

WYOMING

The Yarrow Group
Wyoming Office of Tourism