

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

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**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

## **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