KEY TRAVEL PRIORITIES in the FY22 Omnibus

As of March 11, 2022

- **Brand USA**: Provides $250 million in supplemental Brand USA funding, waiving the matching requirement for amounts provided above $50 million. To offset the funding, the ESTA fee is extended from September 30, 2027 through October 31, 2028.

- **H-2B Visas**: Authorizes DHS to exempt returning H-2B workers from the statutory cap on H-2B visas.

- **Visa Processing**: Requires the State Department to create an action plan to address factors contributing to excessive visa application wait times. The State Department is also directed to submit a report to Congress analyzing the feasibility of increased interview waivers and the use of videoconferencing technology.

- **Consular Staffing**: Authorizes the State Department to use certain fee income and unspent funds from previous years to restore consular services, including visa interviews.

- **EDA**: Clarifies that ordinary EDA economic adjustment assistance funds can be used for travel promotion activities.

- **Alternative Fuel Corridors for Travel & Tourism**: Directs the Federal Highway Administration to designate future alternative fuel corridors in a way that supports travel and tourism traffic patterns and aligns with the National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

- **Survey of International Air Travelers**: Increases funding for the Survey of International Air Travelers (SIAT) by $1 million.

- **TSA Biometric Identification**: Directs TSA to provide a report to Congress detailing airports at which CAT is currently deployed, airports at which CAT is not currently deployed, and a plan for the full procurement and deployment of CAT systems at all of the Nation’s airports.

- **TSA Security Screenings**: Provides $131 million for computed tomography screening equipment and credential authentication and standoff detection technology.

  - Fully funds the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams (VIPR), staffing at exit lanes, and the Law Enforcement Officer reimbursement program.

- **CBP Biometric Exit**: Directs DHS to provide an expenditure plan for accelerating the implementation of biometric exit.

- **CBP Staffing**: Directs CBP to ensure officers are appropriately deployed to large hub international airports and seaports in noncontiguous border states as passenger arrivals increase.

- **CBP Reimbursable Services Program**: Directs CBP to provide each port operator with information on baseline service levels and report to Congress quarterly on CBP’s adherence to these baseline service levels.

- **National Park Service**: Increases National Park funding by $142 million and authorizes the Interior Department to transfer funds to the Federal Highway Administration for National Park transportation projects.

- **FAA Sustainability Grants**: Supports the use of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds for the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) and Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) programs. FAA is also encouraged to set aside at least $25 million of discretionary AIP funds for ZEV and VALE.