

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We proudly represent the state of Nevada, where travel and tourism are a key driver of jobs and economic activity, and we write today to respectfully insist you consider additional ways to enhance and support the recovery of the travel, hospitality, and events industries. Our state continues to experience unemployment figures above the national average, so action on your part to help the workers and businesses that rely on visitors to our state is essential to our full economic recovery.

As part of this request, we ask that you consider exempting fully vaccinated travelers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) current testing order ("inbound testing order"), which requires proof of a negative coronavirus (COVID-19) test or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 for all air passengers arriving from a foreign country. Doing so would bring the U.S. in line with the decision of other countries to drop such testing requirements, including in Europe, Latin America and South Asia, and help spur our economic recovery. Specifically, we are appealing to you for more information pertaining to a projected timeline from your administration for lifting these travel testing requirements.

While we understand the rationale behind the current inbound testing order, it continues to present a number of challenges to our constituents traveling internationally for business or personal reasons, as well as those whose livelihoods depend on a fully functioning international travel system. These challenges that range from uncertainty about the availability of timely testing and the burdens associated with being prevented from returning home due to a false positive test result to a general chilling effect on international travel bookings. With preparations being made by our constituents, businesses, and international travelers to host and attend conventions and gathering months from now, certainty in this area is vital.

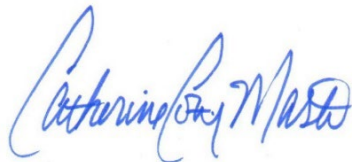
Our constituents who work in the travel industry tell us that the inbound testing order remains the single biggest barrier to the full recovery of the international travel system on which so many rely for their livelihoods. In 2021, according to the U.S. Travel Association, international travel spending in the U.S. was still down 78% compared to spending in 2019. While it will take more time for the industry to be fully restored, we believe that exempting fully vaccinated travelers from the inbound testing order will help speed the recovery of a sector so critical to the broader U.S. economy.

While the testing order is the focus of this letter, we would also request you give consideration to additional items that can help stimulate the recovery of our travel, tourism, and hospitality industries, such as the following:

- To develop executive actions or White House initiatives to galvanize the country to get back to travel, in conjunction with a presidential listening tour, similar to your agriculture tour, to tout the new National Travel and Tourism Strategy and hear from travel industry leaders;
- To sit down directly with industry CEOs and other leaders to discuss the opportunity to leverage travel to increase the United States' global competitiveness;
- To emphasize in Cabinet meetings the need for a whole-of-government approach to improving our global competitiveness in the international travel market;
- To ensure we're sending a clear message to the American public and the world that it is safe to travel again, particularly for vaccinated individuals, and do so publicly and regularly, building off of the recent National Travel and Tourism Week; and
- To work to improve visitor visa processing to enable a more seamless travel experience for our international visitors.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues and this vital economic sector. Please give all of these requests your sincere, full, and fair consideration. Do not hesitate to reach out to any of us, or our offices, with any questions or more immediate updates.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate




Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives



Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives

CC:

Dr. Ashish Jha, White House COVID Response Coordinator

Ron Klain, White House Chief of Staff

Brian Deese, Director of the National Economic Council