

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

September 25, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader U.S. Senate
S-511 - The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 - The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the U.S. Travel Association, which represents all components of the \$1.3 trillion U.S. travel industry, I write to urge Congress to act swiftly to keep the federal government open and avoid a shutdown. A shutdown is a wholly preventable blow to America's travel economy—costing \$1 billion every week—and affecting millions of travelers and businesses while placing unnecessary strain on an already overextended federal travel workforce.

The consequences of inaction are immediate and severe. A shutdown exacerbates staffing shortages among Transportation Security Administration officers and air traffic controllers, threatening longer airport security lines, flight delays, and cancellations. It halts hiring and training of new air traffic controllers when we are already short more than 2,800 controllers nationwide, and restarting the process adds further delays even after funding is restored. While Congress recently provided a \$12.5 billion down payment to modernize our nation's air travel system and improve safety and efficiency, this urgently needed modernization will stop in the event of a shutdown.

Travelers and communities also bear the brunt of closed or neglected National Parks and federally owned museums and attractions, diminished visitor experiences, and the erosion of vital infrastructure that sustains local economies across the country. According to a recent Ipsos survey, 60% of Americans say they would cancel or avoid trips by air in the event of a government shutdown. These harms ripple far beyond airports and parks, threatening jobs, small businesses, and economic growth in every state.

Nearly nine in ten Americans across both political parties agree that Congress should work together to prevent a shutdown. The travel industry is proud to support millions of jobs and play an essential role in the U.S. economy. We urge you to meet this moment of responsibility and keep our government funded.

Sincerely,



Geoff Freeman
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association