August 10, 2026

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

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jefferies, Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the U.S. Travel Association, Airlines for America and the American Hotel & Lodging Association, we appreciate the work of both chambers to pass separate continuing resolutions (CR) to keep the federal government funded while negotiations continue on the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriations bills. When Congress returns to session in September, we urge you to quickly resolve differences between the House and Senate continuing resolutions and enact a stopgap measure before September 30, 2026.

This week, as senators board flights home, they will pass through security checkpoints staffed by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers and rely on the dedicated work of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic controllers and aviation professionals responsible for getting them safely to their destinations. These are the very same frontline federal workers who helped deliver a safe, secure and seamless FIFA World Cup for millions of Americans and international visitors. After demonstrating to the world that America can successfully welcome global travelers, allowing that progress and the goodwill those workers helped earn to be undone is entirely unacceptable.

The consequences of another shutdown will be immediate. TSA officers and air traffic controllers would once again be required to protect the traveling public without pay, worsening staffing shortages and increasing the risk of longer security lines, flight delays and cancellations. Hiring and training new controllers would stall, setting back efforts to enhance our national air space, while national parks, museums and other federal attractions would close or operate with limited services, depriving communities across the country of critical visitor spending.

The economic ramifications would be equally significant. During last fall's 43-day shutdown—the longest in U.S. history—more than 9,000 flights were delayed or cancelled, significantly impacting six million travelers and countless deliveries. These disruptions cost the travel economy an estimated $1 billion every week, with ripple effects felt by airlines, hotels, restaurants, small businesses and workers across every state. At a time when we are working to restore international visitation and strengthen confidence in America's travel system, another shutdown would send precisely the wrong message.

Enactment of the full FY27 appropriations bills is critical to the safety and operations of America's passenger and cargo air transportation system, and that remains our top priority. However, whenever agreement on the full-year funding bills cannot be reached, it is imperative that Congress enact continuing resolutions to keep the government funded.

Because government funding lapses have increased in recent years—often due to unrelated policy disagreements—it is imperative for Congress to enact legislation that would keep TSA and FAA workers paid during government shutdowns, such as advance appropriations for these critical functions or other solutions like the Keep America Flying Act, the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2026, the Aviation Funding Solvency Act and the Aviation Funding Stability Act.

America's travelers, workers, and communities deserve certainty—not another preventable disruption. We urge you to act without delay.

Sincerely,

Geoff Freeman
President & CEO
U.S. Travel Association

Chris Sununu
President & CEO
Airlines for America

Rosanna Maietta
President & CEO
American Hotel & Lodging Association