

May 11, 2021

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership to strengthen our nation's response to COVID-19 and put the United States on a path to defeat the virus. Because of the progress your administration has made, we now have the opportunity to safely reverse the devastating economic damage caused by the pandemic. As leaders of America's travel and tourism industry, which has been the hardest hit sector of the economy, we respectfully urge your administration to seize this opportunity and quickly develop a roadmap to safely reopen international travel to the United States by this summer, starting with a travel corridor between the U.S and the United Kingdom (U.K.)

While U.S. borders remain closed to much of the world, the remarkable scientific advancements to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and the tremendous vaccine deployment achieved by your administration have allowed the safe resumption of many activities. For all its economic and cultural contributions, international travel should be among them and it will hasten the economic recovery we all desire. We also can rebuild our leadership on the global stage, our position in the world and bring people back together again—one of the great benefits of travel.

Based on science and data, resumption of travel between low-risk countries, and in particular among vaccinated individuals, should be allowed to resume. The CDC has said as much regarding domestic travel.

International travel is projected to take the longest to recover—at least five years—without significant intervention. Prior to the pandemic, international inbound travel to the U.S. contributed \$234 billion in export income to the U.S. economy, generated a trade surplus of \$51 billion, and directly supported 1.2 million American jobs. However, the steep decline in travel in 2020 resulted in the loss of \$150 billion in export income and 1.1 million jobs. If nothing is done to lift entry restrictions, the U.S. is projected to lose an additional \$175 billion by the end of this year.

A clear path forward, relying on current data and science, is needed to ease entry restrictions and quickly and safely reopen this critical segment of America's economy.

**There are several steps your administration can take to get started, including:**

- 1. Starting with the United Kingdom, quickly establish public health corridors (PHCs) between the U.S. and other low-risk countries.** We respectfully urge you to engage with Prime Minister Boris Johnson to secure a commitment to quickly establish a travel corridor between the U.S. and the U.K. The federal government should then expand similar PHCs to other low-risk countries.

Establishing a U.S.-U.K. public health corridor would be a crucial step in our country's recovery. A recent study found that restarting travel between the U.S. and the U.K. could deliver over \$4 billion in economic impact and support almost 300,000 jobs in the U.S. over the next several months.

- 2. Establish a public-private taskforce to develop a risk-based roadmap, starting this May, for safely reopening inbound international travel to the U.S. from countries in addition to the U.K.** Similar to our global competitors, the federal government should assign a public-private task force to develop this roadmap using a risk-based data-driven approach to lift international entry restrictions. The data and science show that the right tools are now in place to mitigate risk and safely begin to ease international entry restrictions by July 1, 2021. In particular, as we increase vaccination rates here in the U.S., easing of restrictions should be enhanced.
- 3. Utilize the upcoming G7 summit to seek commitments from other G7 leaders to develop and implement a global framework for safely and fully reopening international travel between countries.** The global framework should focus on leveraging COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, recovery status and digital health credentials to restart international travel as global conditions improve.

The U.S. must be a global leader in restarting international travel. Using science and data as our guide, it is possible to reopen our borders and establish these important public health corridors. It would be incredibly productive if we could advance our dialogue and partner with your administration to set a framework for the safe restart of international travel.

We are grateful for your leadership and remain hopeful that all segments of America's travel industry can soon be safely restarted in order to contribute in significant ways to an overall recovery and bring the U.S. back together with the rest of the world.

Respectfully,

**Roger Dow**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. Travel Association

**Geoff Ballotti**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

**Ed Bastian**, Chief Executive Officer  
Delta Air Lines

**Nicholas E. Calio**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Airlines for America

**Anthony Capuano**, Chief Executive Officer  
Marriott International, Inc.

**Josh D'Amaro**, Chairman  
Disney Parks, Experiences and Products

**Christine Duffy**, President  
Carnival Cruise Line

**Robin Hayes**, Chief Executive Officer  
JetBlue Airways Corp.

**Peter Ingram**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.

**Jerry Jacobs, Jr.**, Chief Executive Officer  
Delaware North

**Peter Kern**, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Expedia Group, Inc.

**Scott Kirby**, Chief Executive Officer  
United Airlines

**David Kong**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
BWH Hotel Group

**Elie Maalouf**, Chief Executive Officer, Americas  
IHG Hotels & Resorts

**Heather McCrory**, Chief Executive Officer, North & Central America  
Accor

**Sean Menke**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
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**Christopher J. Nassetta**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
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**Patrick Pacious**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Choice Hotels International, Inc.

**Doug Parker**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
American Airlines

**Scott Sibella**, President  
Resorts World Las Vegas

**Chrissy Taylor**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Enterprise Holdings Inc.

**Jonathan Tisch**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Loews Hotels & Co

**Andrew Wexler**, Chief Executive Officer  
Herschend Enterprises