

June 15, 2021

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to offer our deepest appreciation for your leadership and response to containing the COVID-19 pandemic and for guiding our nation to the improvements we are now experiencing. As infection rates trend downward, it truly appears that we are turning the corner, while we remain mindful of all the steps we must keep in place to maintain this success. As leaders of our nation's hub airports, we are committed to ensuring the key measures recommended by health authorities remain in place to minimize exposure and serve the needs of a growing number of people as they return to air travel.

To that end, we write to respectfully request your administration's attention on developing a plan and a timetable to safely reopen America's borders to international travel. As you know, the European Union - recognizing the benefits of safely welcoming international visitors back to the bloc's countries - has now announced its intention to allow member states to admit vaccinated visitors, including Americans, this summer. Likewise, the United Kingdom (U.K.) will reevaluate its newly announced "traffic light" system with regularity to assign countries in tiers for visitation based on viral containment. We are hopeful that the U.S. and U.K. will soon come to agreement to safely admit residents between our two countries.

Given these new developments, and with all the health and scientific evidence pointing to the ability to return to many normal activities, resumption of travel between low-risk countries should soon be possible for the United States as well. The CDC has said as much regarding domestic travel.

International travel, a critical driver of the travel economy prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, is projected to take the longest to recover - at least five years - without significant intervention. In 2019, 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 more than a 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.

Key steps your administration can take to get started include:

1. Quickly lift 212(f) for the United Kingdom (U.K.) and reopen international travel between the U.S. and the U.K. 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.

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. Direct the expert task force groups to quickly develop, by July 4, risk-based roadmaps to safely reopen inbound international travel to the U.S. from other countries in addition to the U.K. Similar to our global competitors, the federal government should direct 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 4, 2021. In particular, as we increase vaccination rates here in the U.S., easing of restrictions should be enhanced.
3. Work with G7 countries to quickly 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.

Working together, a return to welcoming international travelers is possible. Doing so by July will also help return millions of American workers to jobs directly involved in travel as well as those supported by traveler spending. This step will also serve to reconnect us to the world following months of necessary lockdown. We are ready to play our role in rebuilding the travel economy by serving as the gateway for millions of future international travelers who are cleared to visit the United States once again and are hopeful to work with your administration on a plan and timeframe for the resumption of international travel.

Respectfully,

Roger Dow

President and Chief Executive Officer
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