

Advancing Industry Priorities in **Phase 4 COVID-19 Relief Legislation**



July 23, 2020

U.S. TRAVEL
ASSOCIATION®



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Right now, Congress is negotiating the next round of COVID-19 relief.

**THE NEXT 3 WEEKS
ARE CRITICAL.**

We need your help to **#SaveTravel**

The **travel and tourism industry** has been **hit the hardest** by the coronavirus pandemic.



IN 2020, U.S. TRAVEL PROJECTS DEVASTATING IMPACTS INCLUDING:



30% decline
in overall domestic
travel



63% decline in
overall international
travel



45% decline in
travel spending
(a **\$505 billion** loss)



\$1.2 trillion
total economic loss

SOURCE:
Tourism Economics

The travel industry is experiencing an unemployment rate of **51%**.

U.S. TRAVEL POLICY PRIORITIES



1

Provide **Long-Term Relief** Until Recovery is Possible

Summary: PPP should not be abandoned **until all employers in the hardest-hit sectors of the economy can get back on their feet.** PPP is intended to be the first line of relief for impacted employers, yet there are many small businesses and nonprofits, such as **destination marketing organizations (DMOs)**, that have still **not been able to access the program.**

2

Provide **Meaningful Federal Grants** to Promote Safe and Healthy Travel Practices

Summary: Ultimately, **the only way to revive the economy is to restore America's confidence in the ability to travel safely.** Unfortunately, **DMO budgets have been devastated** by sharp declines in visitor and lodging tax revenue that is typically used to fund travel promotion activities.

3

Provide **Limited, Temporary and Immediate Safe Harbor for Businesses** that Follow Proper Health and Safety Guidelines

Summary: Travel businesses across the U.S. want nothing more than to reopen responsibly, put Americans back to work and spur economic recovery. If these businesses take the necessary steps to protect the health of customers and employees, they must be provided with a **limited safe harbor to protect them against costly and frivolous litigation.**

4

Create Temporary **Tax Credits and Deductions**

Summary: To provide **much-needed tax relief** and **reduce the time it takes to recover**, the following tax measures are needed:

- A tax credit to **stimulate travel by individuals**
- A tax credit to **restore activity in the business meetings and events sector**, including conventions and trade shows
- Expansion of the **Employee Retention Tax Credit**
- **Restoration of the entertainment business expense deduction** to help stabilize demand at entertainment venues
- **A tax credit to help businesses of all sizes offset the cost of mitigating the spread of COVID-19**, including the cost of structural barriers and personal protective equipment

5

Develop a **National Strategy to Expand COVID-19 Testing** by Enacting the TEST Act

Summary: Improving the accuracy, speed, accessibility, and planning for **COVID-19 testing and contact tracing is essential** for protecting public health and accelerating economic recovery.

6

Provide **Additional Emergency Assistance** to U.S. Airports

Summary: According to Airports Council International North America (ACI-NA), due to continued international travel restrictions and the 80% decline in domestic air travel, **U.S. airports will face at least \$23 billion in operating losses. Congress should provide U.S. airports with an additional \$13 billion in emergency assistance** and ensure that large hub airports receive a portion of the assistance that is commensurate with their needs.



RELIEF

PROTECTION

STIMULUS

By 2021, three **recovery initiatives** would generate*:

- **+\$71 billion** in travel industry **spending**
- **+\$163 billion** in **economic output**
- Restore nearly **800,000 travel jobs**

*Incremental over the baseline forecast



ACTIVATING ON PHASE 4



WAYS TO ENGAGE



**PHONE
CALLS**



**ACTION
ALERTS**



**OP-EDs &
LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR**



**SOCIAL
MEDIA**



Q&A