Advancing Industry Priorities in Phase 4 COVID-19 Relief Legislation

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TORI EMERSON BARNES
Executive Vice President,
Public Affairs and Policy
U.S. Travel Association
ERIK HANSEN
Vice President, Government Affairs
U.S. Travel Association

VICKI VARELA
Managing Director
Utah Office of Tourism
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

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

**SOURCE:** Tourism Economics
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.
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.
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.**
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
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.
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.
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*
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