"The public’s health and safety is priority No. 1, and we hope the aggressive steps being taken by the federal government succeed in putting the moment of greatest concern behind us. Unfortunately, the steps needed to curb the spread of coronavirus will take a massive economic toll, with 4.6 million travel-related jobs expected to vanish by the end of April. Aggressive government action is needed to provide relief for the U.S. economy, the small businesses that make up 83% of all U.S. travel employers, and the 15.8 million travel-supported jobs that are going to feel a catastrophic impact from this health crisis.”

This is a very difficult time, and we hope everyone around the world is practicing the guidance of public health authorities and taking all the necessary precautions to keep themselves and their communities safe.

The health and well-being of the public is first and foremost, and our industry is happy to see strong actions to address it, such as the initial $8.3 billion federal supplemental spending bill.

Unfortunately we now have a dire economic emergency in addition to the health emergency, with 4.6 million travel-related jobs expected to disappear by the end of April.

15.8 million Americans—1 out of every 10 U.S. workers—depend on the travel industry for their jobs.

The first workers to feel the impact will be lower-wage employees who can least afford to lose their jobs.

83% of travel companies are small businesses, and if they can’t afford to keep their business open their employees won’t get paid.

We’ve called on Washington to:

- Establish a fund to keep workers employed.
- Provide emergency liquidity for travel businesses to stay open.
- Defer tax liability and quarterly tax payments.
- Bulk up the Small Business Administration loan program and convert a part to grants while eliminating red tape
- The bill put forward by the Senate on Thursday is a very good step forward on the small-business and tax front.
- But we ask that Congress consider much more on the emergency liquidity—and include direct grants and a bigger number ($250B).
- At the right moment, the government should look at proactive steps to get people traveling to and within the U.S. For now, direct help to keep the travel workforce employed is urgently needed.