

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As you continue discussions for the next phase of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to consider new relief to support the travel and tourism sector. According to a report from the U.S. Travel Association, the pandemic will result in an estimated \$505 billion in losses for the travel industry and a total of \$81 billion in lost federal, state, and local taxes by the end of 2020. Current spending for travel and tourism is down more than 50% from the same point in 2019 - heavily contributing to skyrocketing unemployment as one out of every ten private sector jobs is tied to travel and tourism.

The recently introduced H.R. 7920, the Healthy & Safe Travel Promotion Act would authorize a targeted grant program administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support tourism marketing and share vital health and safety information to visitors in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, the legislation provides flexibility to state, tribal, and local governments to invest in these activities under the funds appropriated through the CARES Act and provides the EDA with clarity surrounding existing and future funding. It is important that, as negotiations continue, proposals to provide relief to workers in the travel and tourism industry are part of the ongoing conversation to aid struggling communities.

In previous economic downturns, the travel and tourism sector has experienced lagging recovery. We fear that without direct federal action, this time could be far worse. We look forward to working with you to develop strategies that will encourage travel and tourism when and where it is safe to do so in order to help our communities stem the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and assist in the long-term economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

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Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress

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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

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Ed Case  
Member of Congress

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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

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Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

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Joe Cunningham  
Member of Congress

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Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

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Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress

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Steven A. Horsford  
Member of Congress

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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

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Tom O'Halleren  
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

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Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress

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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

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Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress

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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

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Don Young  
Member of Congress

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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

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Jason T. Smith  
Member of Congress

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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress