

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
S-220, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for working tirelessly to pass important measures to protect our economy and working families from the COVID-19 outbreak. New programs, such as the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), have extended critical relief to many segments of our economy. However, this relief has not been felt everywhere. The travel and tourism industry is currently losing significant business, but the PPP is limited in its ability to help. As Congress considers reforming the PPP, we urge you to expand PPP eligibility to our country's destination marketing organizations (DMOs), conventions and visitors' bureaus (CVBs), and state tourism offices.

DMOs, CVBs and state tourism offices are primary drivers of economic activity that encourage tourism and travel in New York and every state and community across the country. In New York, especially, these institutions also provide thousands of meaningful jobs for individuals who are, unfortunately, now experiencing layoffs and furloughs. Despite the important role DMOs, CVBs, and state tourism offices play in driving customers to local small businesses and supporting local jobs, they are ineligible for relief provided to other employers through the PPP.

When the economy does reopen, it will be critical for these institutions to be fully staffed and capable to quickly restore economic development for communities nationwide.

We urge you to expand eligibility for the PPP to include DMOs, CVBs, and state tourism offices classified as 501(c)(6) or 501(c)(4) nonprofits and travel-related government organizations. Thank you for your attention and support as we continue to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure a swift and robust economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress (NY-04)



John Katko
Member of Congress (NY-24)



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress (NY-22)



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress (NY-21)



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress (NY-03)



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress (NY-25)