

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

December 29, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of Treasury
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 7000
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza,

With the recent enactment of legislation extending and expanding access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), we write to request expedited implementation of Section 318 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (H.R.133), which expands PPP eligibility to destination marketing organizations (DMOs).

As the leading voice for the travel community, we know intimately the indispensable role DMOs play in the travel economy, providing economic development and marketing services customized for their communities, while managing group meeting and convention space. However, over the past 9 months, DMOs from across the country have been struggling to survive in the face of unprecedented economic challenges—experiencing drastic declines in funding from local travel taxes and group meeting sales. Many have had to lay off or furlough valued members of their staff or suspend operations entirely.

Every day that goes by without relief further exacerbates their significant financial challenges—making travel's road to recovery ever more difficult. Therefore, we ask that you streamline rules governing DMO access to PPP loans, including calculating lobbying activities based on 2019 levels, ensuring the definition of lobbying activities conforms with the definition provided under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, ensuring quasi-governmental DMOs are eligible for second draw loans (notwithstanding 13 CFR § 120.110), and limiting documentation requirements for PPP applications.

As you prepare to implement the changes made by H.R.133, we stand ready to answer any questions that can help accelerate this process for DMOs and look forward to your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Dow
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association