

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**

Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Kevin McCarthy**

Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

August 14, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The travel and tourism industry is deeply appreciative of all you have done to support travel employees and small businesses throughout this public health and economic crisis.

Unfortunately, millions of workers and small businesses are still struggling, and we cannot afford to lose more ground in the fight to keep them afloat. Though substantial segments of the travel industry were unable to access earlier rounds of relief, Congress was making significant strides toward securing protection for this hardest hit of economic sectors before negotiations ceased last week.

The travel industry workers and small businesses who have suffered so much during this crisis need relief today. Relief cannot wait until the fall or until after the election. **Congressional and administration negotiators must come back to the table right away to find a solution to help save and bring back the jobs of millions of Americans.**

It is abundantly clear that a revival of the American economy is not possible without immediate, significant, targeted relief for travel and tourism businesses and its workforce. A new report from Tourism Economics underscores the unique pain this crisis has inflicted on the industry:

- 40% of excess U.S. unemployment is in the Leisure and Hospitality (L&H) sector, despite that sector accounting for 11% of all pre-pandemic employment in the U.S.
- Nearly half of the 16.9 million jobs in the L&H sector were wiped out in March and April.
- If every industry recovered to its pre-pandemic employment level except for L&H, the overall employment rate would fall from 10.2% to 6.2%—still 2.7% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

To restore these vital jobs and put millions of Americans back to work, Congress must immediately extend the Paycheck Protection Program and expand its eligibility to include nonprofit and quasi-governmental destination marketing organizations. Failure to do so will jeopardize an economic recovery before it even begins.

Destination marketing organizations are small business champions, driving demand for travel businesses in every congressional district. Once Americans are ready to travel again in earnest, these are the organizations that will bring back the visitors who will spend tourism dollars in restaurants, shops, hotels and attractions—and by extension, other travel-dependent businesses across economic sectors—restoring jobs and providing a much-needed boost to communities throughout the country. These are the very businesses the Paycheck Protection Program originally sought to protect, and they desperately need a lifeline—not only to survive this crisis, but to help lead a nationwide economic recovery.

Please, this cannot afford to wait any longer. The entire travel and tourism industry—and the millions of workers whose livelihoods depend on this industry—urges you to return to the negotiating table right away and finish the good work you began. Americans are counting on it.

Sincerely,

Jan Williamson  
Executive Director  
18th Street Arts Center

Alan Suchodolski  
President  
Advanced Reservation Systems, Inc.

Jay Gardner  
President  
Adventure Cat, Inc.

John Alter  
Owner  
Alter Triotech LLC

Charles Beirne  
General Manager  
ASM Global - Long Beach Convention &  
Entertainment Center

Judi Barker  
Owner/Operator  
Barker Hangar

John W. Koeberer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Basecamp Hospitality

Tye Bauer  
CEO  
Bauer Enterprises

Charles Jennings  
Captain  
Bay Voyager

Read Phillips  
Owner & CEO  
Beets Hospitality Group

Julie Wagner  
Chief Executive Officer  
Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau

Andrew Smith  
Senior Vice President  
Big Bus Tours

Tawni Thomson  
Executive Director  
Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors  
Bureau

Lynn Mohrfeld  
President & CEO  
California Hotel and Lodging Association

Cheryl Marcell  
President & CEO  
California State Railroad Museum Foundation

Barbara Newton  
CEO  
California Travel Association

Dyana Kelley  
President  
CampCalNOW RV Park and Campground Alliance

Ted J. Balestreri  
CEO  
Cannery Row Company

Greg Bombard  
President & CEO  
Catalina Channel Express Inc.

Patrick Fearn  
President  
Certified Folder Display Service Inc.

Terry Friedkin  
Owner  
Chocolate Heaven

Marcie Graham  
Marketing Manager  
City of La Quinta

Thomas Soule  
Tourism & Marketing Manager  
City of Palm Desert

Jonny G. Westom  
President  
Dana Point Resorts Association, Inc.

Zae Perrin  
President & CEO  
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce

Daniel Hawkins  
President  
DD Restaurant Group, Inc.

Erin Francis  
CEO  
Destination Analysts

Wendy Haase  
Vice President  
Destination Irvine

Dave Kendrick  
President & CEO  
DogTrekker, Inc.

Inge Houston  
President & CEO  
Dublin Chamber of Commerce

William Loughran  
Chief Operating Officer  
Evolution Hospitality

Carolyn Denero  
Executive Director  
Explore Butte County

Gary Lillian  
President & CEO  
Extranomical Tours

Sam Jagger  
General Manager  
Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows

Daniel Ginzburg  
Owner  
FantaSea Yachts

Florian Riedel  
General Manager  
Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley

Donna Gentry  
Owner  
Gentry Group

Michael K. Krouse  
President & CEO  
Greater Ontario Convention and Visitors Bureau

Scott White  
President & CEO  
Greater Palm Springs CVB

David Hagerman  
President  
HFC, Inc.

Terry MacRae  
Chairman  
Hornblower Group

Tom Patton  
Executive Committee Board Member  
Hospitality Santa Barbara

Heather Rozman  
Executive Director  
Hotel Association of Los Angeles

Kevin Carroll  
President & CEO  
Hotel Council of San Francisco

Kevin Kretsch  
General Manager  
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

Jamarah Hayner  
President  
JKH Consulting

Garry Sage  
CEO  
JNS Next

Damien Hirsch  
General Manager  
JW Marriott Santa Monica

Karen Lippe-Ferrell  
Founder  
Karen Ferrell Consulting

Lauren Schlau  
President  
Lauren Schlau Consulting

Kurt Stocks  
General Manager  
LEGOLAND California Resort

Cally Dym  
GM & Owner  
Little River Inn

Dawn Argula  
President & CEO  
Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce

Steve Goodling  
President & CEO  
Long Beach Convention Bureau

Adam Burke  
President & CEO  
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board

Dan Janes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Madden Media

John Urdi  
Executive Director  
Mammoth Lakes Tourism

Mark Essman  
President & CEO  
Marin Convention and Visitors Bureau

Janet Zaldua  
CEO  
Marina Del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau

Mark Murphy  
General Manager  
Marriott

Todd Aaronson  
CEO  
Modesto Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc

Rob O'Keefe  
President & CEO  
Monterey County CVB

Ellis O'Connor  
Co-President  
MSD Hospitality

Nancy Nichols  
President & General Manager  
Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority

Jeff Klocke  
Vice President & General Manager  
Pacific Park

Michael Ross  
CEO  
Pasadena Center Operating Company

Taylor Safford  
President & CEO  
PIER 39

Steve Van Dorn  
President & CEO  
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

David Yow  
Legislative Policy Administrator  
Port of San Diego

Lauren Rogers  
CEO  
Recreational Embassy

Julie Coker  
President & CEO  
San Diego Tourism Authority

Paul Baribault  
President & CEO  
San Diego Zoo Global

Brian Smith  
Co-Owner  
San Francisco Bay Boat Cruises Inc.

Joe D'Alessandro  
President & CEO  
San Francisco Travel

Mitch Postel  
President  
San Mateo County Historical Association

John M. Hutar  
President & CEO  
San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

Kristen Miller  
President & CEO  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce

Glenn Morris  
President & CEO  
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors  
Bureau

Laurel Rosen  
CEO  
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Jeffrey Jarow  
President  
Santa Monica Sister City Association

Misti Kerns  
President & CEO  
Santa Monica Travel and Tourism  
Galina Kirkilevich  
Controller  
Screamline Investment Corp

Marilyn Hannes  
Park President  
SeaWorld San Diego

Laurie Baker  
General Manager  
Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association

Jonathan Farzam  
Vice President  
Shore Hotel

Sandra L. Fletcher  
President  
Simco Restaurants Group

Michael Reitzell  
President  
Ski California

Robert Jason Pinoli  
Vice President & General Manager  
Skunk Train

Claudia Vecchio  
President & CEO  
Sonoma County Tourism

Kim Koury  
President  
Spin PR

Kamrouz Farhadi  
Chairman  
Starline Tours of Hollywood

Paul Laine  
Founder & CEO  
Storibox Experience Imaging Technologies

Dustin Peterson

Vice President  
The Athens Group

Kashem Nakarmi  
Officer  
The Crystal Shop Inc

Ace Marshall  
President  
The Fudgery

Paulette Lombardi-Fries  
President  
Travel Costa Mesa

Brian Tucker  
Executive Director  
Ventura County Lodging Association

Suresh Patel  
General Manager  
Ventura Inn - Amanzi Hotel

Jay Burress  
President & CEO  
Visit Anaheim

Barbara Hillman  
CEO  
Visit Berkely

Monique Rangel  
Director of Operations  
Visit Big Bear

Caroline Beteta  
President & CEO  
Visit California

Elaine Cortez Schroth  
CEO and President  
Visit Concord

Jane Howard  
Executive Director  
Visit Gilroy

Kelly Miller  
President & CEO  
Visit Huntington Beach

Ashley Johnson  
President & CEO  
Visit Laguna Beach

Travis R. Scott  
Executive Director  
Visit Mendocino County

Linsey Gallagher  
President & CEO  
Visit Napa Valley

Mark Everton  
CEO  
Visit Oakland

Robert Haswell  
Executive Director  
Visit Placer

Michael Testa  
President & CEO  
Visit Sacramento

John LaFortune  
COO & Interim CEO  
Visit San Jose

Kathy Janega-Dykes  
CEO  
Visit Santa Barbara

Brad Calkins  
Executive Director  
Visit Santa Rosa

Chuck Davison, CDME  
President & CEO  
Visit SLO CAL

Wes Rhea  
CEO  
Visit Stockton

Kimberly Adams  
President & CEO  
Visit Temecula Valley

Tracy L. Farhad  
President & CEO  
Visit Tri-Valley

Lisa Mayo  
President & CEO  
Visit Tuolumne County

Melyssa Laughlin  
President & CEO  
Visit Vacaville

Michael Browne  
President & CEO  
Visit Vallejo CA

Marlyss Auster  
President & CEO  
Visit Ventura

Tom Kiely  
President & CEO  
Visit West Hollywood

Rhonda Salsbury  
CEO  
Visit Yosemite | Madera County

Frank Marini  
President  
Yankee Leisure Group

Terry Selk  
Executive Director  
Yolo County Visitor Bureau

Jonathan Farrington  
Executive Director  
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau