



March 10, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the American Bus Association, I urge you to ensure that any assistance provided by the Administration to address the economic downturn due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and task forces established to address business needs, explicitly include the motorcoach, tour and travel industries. With the worldwide outbreak continuing to spread, the devastating impact on travel and transportation operators is compounded. As your Administration reviews and develops strategies to conduct timely and targeted interventions to help workers, firms and industries facing severe economic losses by this outbreak, ABA wants to ensure the motorcoach, tour and travel industries are not forgotten.

The ABA is the oldest, largest and most respected voice of the motorcoach, tour and travel industries. Our Association represents private motorcoach operators, tour operations and all facets of small businesses supporting the travel industry. Our motorcoach members engage in providing public transportation services through intercity scheduled bus service, commuter and shuttle operations, school bus transportation, charter operations, and in some cases contract services for public transit authorities. Collectively, the motorcoach industry provides nearly 600 million passenger trips annually. Our ABA membership also includes tour operators, tourism-related organizations, and products and service suppliers, all in support of the travel industry.

The motorcoach, tour and travel industries are dominated by small businesses, and most often these are family owned, multigenerational businesses. These types of small businesses are not capable of withstanding even a modest downturn in domestic travel and tourism, let alone the devastating situation the travel industry is currently experiencing. We are hearing daily from our members who are suffering a significant decline in business due to travel concerns, and the situation is expected to further deteriorate in the coming weeks and months. According to the U.S. Travel Association's Travel Trends Index (TTI), international inbound travel to the U.S. will fall 6.0% over the next three months, with the COVID-19 outbreak continuing to roil the global economy.

As the Administration aggressively seeks measures to combat the economic downturn resulting from the spread of COVID-19, we implore you to keep in mind the myriad of small, family owned businesses engaged in motorcoach, tour and travel operations. Our members provide a vital link for rural communities, commuting employees, school children, and price-sensitive travelers. These businesses need assistance to remain sustainable through this downturn.

ABA stands ready to work with the Administration in any way for the benefit of our members. Please have your staff contact me directly with any questions or concerns at 202-218-7229 or ppantuso@buses.org.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Pantuso
President and CEO
American Bus Association

cc: The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury

Mr. Larry Kudlow Director
National Economic Council

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration