



March 10, 2020

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

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

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Bus Association, I urge you to include the motorcoach, tour and travel industries explicitly, in any economic assistance packages Congress enacts to address the economic downturn caused by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). With the worldwide outbreak continuing to spread, the devastating impact on travel and transportation operators is compounded. As Congress and the Administration review and develop 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, as suggested by recent media reports.

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 Congress considers 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 Congress and the Administration, 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 Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
The Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
The Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Chairman
The Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
The Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives