**Coronavirus is Decimating Group Tour and Travel Industry, Congress Needs to Help**

Weeks into the Coronavirus pandemic and the group tour and travel industry is being decimated. Spring is known to be our busy season. This is the time when we would be welcoming motorcoaches and tours filled with school classrooms, families and other Americans who love to see all the amazing sites America has to offer, but there is no one traveling. The hundreds of thousands of students visiting capital cities and educational and destination sites are home. Spring break family trips are not happening. At a time when 50 to 90 percent of this motorcoach, group tour and travel industry’s profits are made, everyone has had to close their doors. This story sounds so far away but it is happening right in our community.

Our company, NAME, employs NUMBER of people in our community. We have been forced to shut our doors. Shutting down our business means no more trip planning for future groups. The streets are silent where usually there would be hundreds of motorcoaches visiting our community. No more visitors in our museums, attractions and stores. No tourism dollars coming in at all, and we will never make this loss up.

While we appreciate the efforts that Congress made to include small businesses in the Small Business Administration loan program and the unemployment benefits provisions to assist during the crisis, we are disappointed at being ignored in Congress’ CARES ACT package because it did not carve out specific money for the travel and tourism segment of the U.S. economy. The Small Business Emergency Loan program will take some time before it is up and running.  And, while there are SBA loans available, our businesses, which are mostly shut down, will need to stand in line with every small business hurting in the country. Most of the companies in the industry are like mine, a small business, and many are family owned businesses, which have been a staple in the community for decades. COMPANY NAME has been in business NUMBER OF YEARS, and sadly we are on the brink of going out of business forever.

Yet Congress has bailed out transit, Amtrak and the airlines. Why are they ignoring us? Our industry employs 2 million people around the country, bringing in an economic impact of $237 billion annually. We will not see those numbers this year. If U.S. government allows our businesses close permanently, we may never see those numbers again.

We need action now! We need Congress to provide us the funds – like they have for other travel sectors – to save our industry and keep America moving and traveling.

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ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

Text and include website address