



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

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-222
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing employees and multiple industries critical to the U.S. national transportation network, we urge you to support S. 4150, the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act (CERTS Act), introduced jointly by Senators Reed and Collins. This legislation provides much needed grant and economic assistance to transportation industries overlooked in previously enacted COVID-19 economic relief packages. With Congress and the Administration developing targeted interventions to support sectors of the economy that continue to struggle from COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation is crafted to meet this intent and we seek your support.

The U.S. private motorcoach, school bus and domestic passenger vessel industries have suffered unprecedented economic losses and furloughed hundreds of thousands of employees over the past 4 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the nature of their operations, most businesses and workers in these sectors are not likely to resume any time soon or only in a severely reduced capacity. Unlike other modes of transportation, such as airlines, rail and public transit, these transportation industries have not received direct economic relief to date, placing them in a perilous position, with many on the brink of closing their doors forever.

The U.S. private motorcoach, school bus and domestic passenger vessel industries, collectively, employ over 400,000 employees and provide diverse, essential and often critical passenger transportation services nationwide.

The U.S. motorcoach industry employs nearly 100,000 individuals and provides nearly 600 million passenger trips per year ensuring vital intercity connections for rural communities,

relieving congestion and providing reliable commuter operations for urban areas. Motorcoaches connect people to their jobs, whether those jobs are in cities, mines, farms and other locations. Charter and tour operations are an essential part of the travel and tourism industry and will be essential to help those businesses as the nation recovers from the pandemic. Motorcoaches are also a key element of our nation's defense system and support military troop movements and take people out of harm's way by supplying evacuation services during hurricanes, fires and other national emergencies.

Private school bus transportation companies provide nearly 40% of the nation's school bus service under contract to school districts, employing over 250,000 employees. School bus transportation is the safest form of transportation for students to get to and from school according to DOT statistics. School bus companies have been severely impacted by the pandemic as they have experienced reduced or lapsed payments due to school closures in the spring, cancellation of summer camps and activities and planning for wide variations across the country regarding school re-openings, activity trips and sports activities in the fall. School bus transportation is an extension of the education system and for many, the only way to get to and from school. For 26 million children, their trained and skilled professional school bus driver is the first and last person they see during their school day. It is critical to ensure the continued viability of school bus transportation for these children that rely on the yellow school bus.

The U.S. passenger vessel industry, which in good times carries more than 200 million passengers annually has been literally shut down as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The passenger vessel industry includes public and private ferries, dinner boats, sightseeing and excursion vessels, whale watch and wildlife tour boats, sailing vessels, and small U.S. overnight cruise ships. These small businesses, which are in virtually every port in our Nation, employ thousands of U.S. citizens and U.S. mariners make a significant contribution to the transportation and travel and tourism sectors.

These transportation industries and their employees all provide vital transportation services, playing an essential and critical role in the national transportation network. If these industries fail, it will have a devastating and reverberating effect throughout the entire economy. The impact will affect not only the capacity of the national transportation network, but also schools, national emergency response capabilities, the manufacturing sector, the financial sector, the tourism sector and beyond. All citizens deserve vital, reliable, and affordable transportation services for their daily lives, and require safe and reliable transportation services for their children to attend school and educational events.

Please support this legislation and include it in the next COVID relief package, time is running out for these industries. If we can provide any additional information to assist with this request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Peter Pantuso
President and CEO
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Washington, DC

Larry Killingsworth
President and CEO
United Motorcoach Association
Alexandria, VA

John Groundwater
Executive Director
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Alexandria, VA

Curt Macysyn
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John A. Costa
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American Highway Users Association
Washington, DC



National Association of Motorcoach Operators



Alabama Motorcoach Association



California Bus Association



Florida Motorcoach Association



Georgia Motorcoach Association



Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association



Maryland Motorcoach Association



Bus Association of New York



Midwest Bus & Motorcoach Association



North Carolina Motorcoach Association



Minnesota Charter Bus Operator's Association



Northwest Motorcoach Association



New England Bus Association



Pennsylvania Bus Association

BUS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

Bus Association of New Jersey, Inc.



South Central Motorcoach Association



Motor Coach Association of South Carolina



Tennessee Motor Coach Association



Virginia Motorcoach Association



California School Transportation Association



Connecticut School Transportation Association

Delaware School Bus Contractors Association



School Transportation Association of Massachusetts



Minnesota School Bus Operator's Association



Missouri School Bus Contractors Association

Montana School Bus Contractors Association



New Jersey School Bus Contractors Association



New York School Bus Contractors Association



Wisconsin School Bus Association