



November 19, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem

Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio

Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio:

We commend the extraordinary progress your departments have made in advancing President Trump's vision for a Golden Age of Travel. Through the achievements delivered through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) including historic investment to modernize our air traffic control system, significant funding to complete biometric exit, and strengthening CBP staffing at our ports of entry—we see a clear commitment to maintaining American leadership in global travel. These efforts are already making our borders more secure and our travel system more efficient.

We share your belief that travel is a powerful driver of the economy and a showcase of our nation's greatness. It is in this spirit that we express our concern regarding the newly created Visa Integrity Fee (VIF) that Congress included in the OBBB. While we fully support policies that enhance the integrity and security of our visa system, the additional \$250 fee risks discouraging millions of prospective visitors at a time when the United States stands ready to welcome the world. The United States is poised for a historic boom in international travel, driven by the 2026 FIFA World Cup, America250, and the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. These events have the potential to generate up to \$100 billion in economic activity and welcome 40 million visitors. Congress and the Administration should do everything in their power to maximize this opportunity.

In repeated surveys of international travelers, cost is consistently a top deterrent to visiting the U.S., and the VIF will make matters worse. For example, the total visa fees for a family of four visiting from Brazil will be \$1,740 once the fee is implemented—a \$1,000 increase. According to Tourism Economics, even at the statutory minimum of \$250, the VIF would result in 3 million fewer visitors and cost the U.S. \$9 billion in visitor spending during the remainder of President Trump's term. America should be rolling out the welcome mat—and Congress should not be raising the price of admission.

We respectfully urge your departments to indefinitely delay implementation of the VIF and work with Congress to enact legislation limiting its application to countries and applicants who have a high likelihood of visa overstay. This measured approach would preserve the security objectives of the policy while avoiding significant disruption to international visitation. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Administration to maintain the United States' position as the world's top travel destination. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Airlines for America
Airports Council International - North America
American Bus Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Resort Development Association
American Society for Association Executives
American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA)
Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA)
Consumer Technology Association
Destinations International
Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
International Association of Exhibitions & Events
National Tour Association
Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA)
Society of Independent Show Organizers (SISO)
Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE)
Sports Events & Tourism Association
Travel Technology Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association

CC:

The Honorable Sean Duffy, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Rodney S. Scott, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Ms. Susie Wiles, Chief of Staff, The White House
Mr. Nick Luna, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Implementation, The White House
Mr. Andrew Giuliani, Executive Director, White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026