



July 16, 2020

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

IAAPA is the global association for the attractions industry, representing major theme parks, local and destination fixed-site attractions, water parks, family entertainment centers, museums, zoos, aquariums, manufacturers and suppliers. IAAPA's U.S. members employ over 700,000 people in over 5,450 businesses with an annual economic impact of \$58 billion on the U.S. economy.

IAAPA members have been closed and severely harmed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As our industry begins to reopen around the country, most locations are doing so at a substantially reduced capacity and at additional costs. This has been devastating for our members, particularly for the many IAAPA members that are seasonal businesses. These businesses must make enough revenue in the few short months that they are open to sustain their businesses and maintain employment year-round. Even the year-round businesses experience peak attendance from spring break through the summer months and thus have been substantially hurt by the pandemic.

We estimate that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause \$23 billion in economic losses for attractions throughout the nation in 2020, resulting in a \$2.3 billion loss in government revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has likewise caused over 235,000 job losses across the nation, as over 50% of attractions have had to make staffing adjustments and many facilities may not reopen in 2020.

IAAPA and its members have invested significant time and resources on developing guidelines for reopening and operating safely. We are proud of the work we are doing in this area and the time and investment our members are making in developing new protocols and procedures, enhanced sanitization measures and investment in new touchless equipment. However, this is very difficult to do while operating in an environment in which the research and guidance are rapidly changing. It is essential that businesses that are being responsible actors and developing best safety practices to protect guests and workers, based on available knowledge, are provided liability protection from COVID-19 related illnesses. Responsible businesses must be able to focus on getting their businesses up and running properly with the many new health requirements without fear of being penalized.

IAAPA also urges Congress to support the attractions industry through the COVID crisis by extending and expanding support for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program, providing tax credits for hiring and retaining employees and focusing grants and loan repayment relief on the severely impacted industries that have been forced to close and reopen for customers at severely limited capacity, like the attractions industry. I have attached a detailed list



of proposals that are needed to help the attractions industry keep their businesses afloat and maintain their employment levels.

Thank you for your leadership during this challenging time. If we can do anything to assist you in your ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please let us know.

With great respect and sincerity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal McEvoy", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Hal McEvoy  
President and CEO  
IAAPA

CC:

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman  
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member  
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman  
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member  
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515



The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair  
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510