

**Executive Partner:
Talking Points for Outreach to Members of Congress**

Background:

Before Congress adjourns for its summer recess in August, the House and Senate are expected to consider additional relief measures to address the ongoing economic impacts of COVID-19 and provide further economic relief to businesses across the United States. This is likely to be the last relief package considered before the election, which makes our collective advocacy efforts more important than ever.

While we continue to face challenges due to COVID-19, it is vital for our nation's lawmakers to hear the concerns of all members of the cruise community as they decide how we collectively navigate this global health crisis while protecting key economic sectors - including the cruise industry's service providers and vast supply chain.

Now is the time to contact your Congressional representatives in the House and the Senate to urge them to include the needs of members of the cruise community like you in additional relief legislation.

Action Item:

To assist you with your outreach, which we recommend be a phone call to their office followed by an email, please find contact information below for your Representative and Senators:

- **Senate:** Visit the [Senate Directory Website](#) to select the state you reside in. You will be provided the phone number for your member's Washington, D.C. offices and email address.
- **House:** Enter your zip code in the [House of Representatives Website](#) to determine who your Member of Congress is. You will be linked to your member's website and contact page.

We have also provided a call and email template for you to customize below:

Call Template:

- Hello, my name is (your name) and I am calling from (your city).

- As Congress considers additional coronavirus economic relief, I urge you to include significant emergency financial support for businesses like mine, who rely on a vibrant and active cruise community to support our businesses.

- The cruise industry, which is suffering major harm due to COVID-19, is much more than cruise lines, it is a vital artery of the U.S. economy, supporting over 421,000 American jobs, including mine, and contributing nearly \$53 billion to the U.S. economy.

- (Share your personal story)

- Without swift action, harm will be irreparable, and many companies large and small like mine may shutter permanently, causing negative local and national ripple effects.

- I understand Congress is exploring various options to provide additional aid to Americans, and I ask that my representative/senator please include the following:
 - An expanded Paycheck Protection Program that doubles the amount of currently available loan forgiveness.
 - Allow businesses to access a rehire tax credit for employees rehired through 2021, encouraging rehiring and offsetting costs for employers in the recovering economy.
 - Extend enhanced unemployment benefits.
 - Provide targeted support to the travel and tourism industry.
 - Provide additional resources to the Department of State to safely process passport applications and reduce the backlog so that Americans can be ready to travel again.
 - Provide targeted relief to ports and others that play a supporting role in the U.S. maritime industry.

- Thank you for your consideration of these requests and continued support during this challenging time.

Email Message Template:

Subject: Please Include Cruise Industry Suppliers and Service Providers in the Next Relief Package!

Dear **[Name of Congressman/Congresswoman/Senator]**,

As you consider additional coronavirus (COVID-19) economic relief legislation, I urge you to include significant emergency financial support for businesses like mine, who rely on a vibrant and active cruise community to support our businesses. The cruise industry, which is much more than cruise lines, is a vital artery of the U.S. economy, supporting over 421,000 American jobs, including mine, and contributing nearly \$53 billion to the U.S. economy.

[Add personal details about your role within the cruise industry]

It is not news that the travel and tourism sector, especially those of us who are a part of the wider cruise community, is suffering major financial harm due to the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Without swift action, harm will be irreparable, and many companies large and small may shutter permanently, causing negative local and national ripple effects.

[Include examples of challenges you are already facing]

As you explore various options to provide additional aid to Americans, I ask that you please:

- **Expand the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).** While the duration of the PPP was extended, the amount a borrower can receive remains the same. As the travel and tourism sector will take longer to return to pre-crisis levels than the two months of payroll support that the PPP currently provides, borrowers need access to more money. Expanding the PPP loan amount to at least double its current level will enable businesses in severely impacted sectors to receive needed relief.
- **Expand direct grant programs to give small business owners an additional source of relief.** Many small travel and tourism business owners may be hesitant to take on debt because their revenue in many cases has gone to zero overnight with no clear date for recovery. Expanded grant programs would provide these hard-hit businesses with an additional source of relief. At the same time, small business owners, independent contractors, self-employed workers, and sole proprietors should receive targeted outreach and assistance to ensure they are able to access the benefits for which they are eligible.
- **Allow businesses to access a rehire tax credit for employees rehired through 2021, encouraging rehiring and offsetting costs for employers in the recovering economy.** Until the economy is back up and running, businesses need more help to survive during low to non-revenue generating periods. Allowing small- and medium-sized businesses to receive a payroll tax credit for employees that are rehired through 2021 would encourage rehiring and offset costs for employers in a struggling economy.

- **Establish a dedicated federal program specifically for travel and tourism-dependent businesses to support recovery.** A federal program with grants and other recovery tools targeted towards the travel and tourism industry would provide additional flexibility and enable this industry to rebound from the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Extend Enhanced Unemployment Benefits.** The CARES Act provides an extra \$600 per month in unemployment compensation through July 31, in addition to the unemployment benefits provided under state law. Additionally, through the end of the year, the CARES Act extends state unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks (for a maximum of 39 weeks) and expands unemployment compensation to the self-employed and independent contractors. Recognizing the extended duration of the COVID-19 crisis, and the additional time needed for the travel and tourism sector to recover, Congress should extend enhanced unemployment benefits beyond the current term.
- **Provide additional resources to the Department of State to safely process passport applications and reduce the backlog.** Travel and tourism will be key to economic recovery, and Americans should be as ready as possible to travel again once the time is right, which includes having a valid U.S. passport. Additional resources should be allocated to the Department of State to support new and innovative ways to process passport applications safely and expeditiously in the COVID-19 environment and address the current application backlog.
- **Provide targeted relief to ports and others that play a supporting role in the maritime industry.** Ports, port workers, marine terminal operators, harbor pilots, and others that play critical roles in the maritime industry have been severely impacted by COVID-19 related closures and suspensions. Targeted federal relief for these critical maritime support functions will enable them to mitigate losses in revenue, make needed adaptations to deal with the COVID-19 environment, and be best positioned to resume full operations.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and continued support of our country during this challenging time.

Sincerely,
[Your Name and Address]¹

¹ It's important that you include your home address so they know that you are a constituent!