

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **RE: Potential Aid for Industries Impacted by Coronavirus**

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

We, the undersigned, represent some of the largest organizations representing America's diverse entrepreneurs and workforce. Many of the organizations represented herein are members of the National Business Inclusion Consortium (NBIC). Collectively, the NBIC organizations represent over *\$9 trillion* in economic impact, as well as tens of thousands of tax-paying, industry-innovating jobs. The NBIC and our peer organizations encourage parity in cross-segment diversity and inclusion initiatives, works to identify areas of collaboration among diverse businesses, and advocates for the advancement of policies that support the growth of diverse-owned companies in both the public and private sectors: including support for our businesses in times of crisis.

We write regarding prospective federal intervention to support the airline, travel and other targeted industries impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. Our organizations and our affiliate partners urges you to also include small businesses with limited access to bridge capital, small businesses employing hourly employees, trade associations, nonprofits and other tax-exempt organizations within any federal aid packages or supplemental appropriations measures, as many have been and will be harmed by slowing in dues collections, event cancellations and reduced meeting attendance as a result of COVID-19. Our organizations are primarily 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(3) that represent tens of thousands of small businesses and together employ hundreds of thousands of people across the country. To keep our economy strong, our organizations must be strong—and we must be included in any relief packages for the American workforce.

We know many of our partners are sending similar requests, showing the solidarity in the business and nonprofit communities for this ask. We offer two additional recommendations:

- 1) Ensure that hourly employees and paid interns, who are the majority of employees at many smaller associations and organizations, as well at the backbone of countless small businesses, are not left out of these essential measures.
- 2) Provide a fix for the drafting error in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 to ensure the 15-year Qualified Improvement Property (QIP) benefits are included, as

intended. Small businesses are the economic engine that provides jobs for the majority of America's workforce. Further delay in fixing this error will increase its negative impact, decrease economic activity and threaten job creation.

According to the Events Industry Council's 2018 Economic Significant Study conducted by Oxford Economics<sup>1</sup>, more than 1.9 million meetings occur in the United States each year – with more than 250 million attendees. These meetings contribute more than \$446 billion to U.S. gross domestic product and directly support 5.9 million jobs nationwide. The NGLCC produces the world's largest LGBT business event – the NGLCC International Business & Leadership Conference—and our local affiliates produce monthly, if not weekly, programs that substantially impact local economies.

Many associations like our operate similarly to small businesses and are greatly impacted if employees are forced to take sick leave or are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 interaction. We are aware the Trump Administration and Congress are considering measures for small businesses that may require cash flow assistance amid the outbreak, and **urge that tax-exempt entities be included in any temporary aid designed to stem the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19.**

Best,

Justin Nelson, President & Co-Founder  
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Ron Busby, President & CEO  
US Black Chambers Inc.

Chiling Tong, President & CEO  
Asian/Pacific Islander American  
Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Ramiro Cavazos, President & CEO  
US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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

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<sup>1</sup> Events Industry Council. Economic Significance of Meetings to the US Economy. February 2018. <https://dev-meetingsmeanbusiness.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/Economic%20Significance%20of%20Meetings%20to%20the%20US%20Economy.pdf>

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  
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