





May 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

We are the united voice of the California travel and tourism industry. Travel and tourism is one of California’s most vital engines for economic growth. We appreciate the quick financial assistance you provided workers, small business people, and those who have been displaced by this crisis. Unfortunately, our industry continues to struggle and will continue to struggle until it is safe to reopen our communities to leisure travel.

Prior to this pandemic, travelers injected hundreds of millions of dollars into communities across the Golden State, infusing \$145 billion into the state’s economy in 2019. This spending generated \$12.3 billion in local and state tax revenue and supported almost 1.2 million jobs for Californians. The money generated by these taxes fund essential services like police, fire, and public health. As a result of COVID-19, tourism revenues have all but dried up, forcing our state and local governments to consider deep cuts to programs that help the very workers, small businesses, and other displaced individuals you assisted with your federal relief programs.

Therefore, we support the Western States Pact requesting \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments. Though even this amount will not replace the decline in revenue that is forecast as a result of lost tourism jobs and revenue, it will make a meaningful difference in our governments’ ability to make-up for COVID-19 revenue losses. This aid would preserve core government services like public health, public safety, public education and help people get back to work. It would help our state and cities come out of this crisis stronger and more resilient.

We urge you to take swift action to help states and local governments preserve core government services for American families. This moment requires unprecedented partnership from all of us, regardless of industry, geography, or political ideology.

Signed,

California Travel & Tourism Coalition

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California