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**Joseph A. McInerney, CHA**

President & CEO

July 23, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing regarding your announcement on July 22, 2010, that you intend to reduce travel by federal employees. I would like to emphasize we support initiatives to curb waste and unnecessary spending. However, we are concerned that without clear guidelines, your announcement may be implemented arbitrarily, eliminate travel by federal employees that is beneficial to the American people, and further damage the lodging industry.

Last year the U.S. lodging and travel industries experienced one of their worst economic declines in decades. While lodging in all areas of the nation suffered losses, certain states and cities were hit harder than others. These areas—including Las Vegas, Nevada—have yet to show sustainable job growth or economic recovery.

The lodging industry is still feeling the impact of disparaging remarks made against the travel during the last two years. The public backlash that accompanied this unfair negative perception of America's hospitality industries displayed itself in many forms: companies delayed or cancelled their programs and meetings held in our conference facilities, convention attendance was down, and companies who still held events were second-guessing their decisions to use our facilities. In the first half of 2009, U.S. hotels lost an estimated \$1 billion in revenue from cancelled meetings alone, according to industry statistical information.

It is clear that in many cases travel is necessary and serves the public interest. For example, on the same day you announced your new travel limitations, the White House had two other press releases: "Administration Officials Continue Travel Across the Country for "Recovery Summer" Events, Project Site Visits" and "Vice President Biden to Travel to Alabama on Thursday." Less government participation in necessary meetings, trade shows and other types of business travel will lead to a decrease in federal employee productivity and to job losses for American workers employed in the travel industry.

As representatives of America's large and small lodging properties, we remain encouraged by your statement on March 11, 2009, during a meeting with hotel and travel executives that you would be a strong advocate for our industry and for business travel.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe McInerney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being particularly prominent.

Joseph A. McInerney, CHA