WEST VIRGINIA: COVID-19 IMPACT ON STATE’S HOTEL INDUSTRY

JOBS LOST IN WEST VIRGINIA HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- 8,898 direct hotel-related jobs lost
- 13,801 total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

WEST VIRGINIA HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Kelly Williams – Moorefield, WV
“We have had many groups cancel their rooms and conference room bookings in the past week and a half alone. I know over the coming weeks and months more guests will cancel. The negative impact this will have on our business, staff and community will be tremendous.”

Chrissy Richards – Weston, WV
“As of this afternoon Stonewall Resort was at 1.5 million dollars in lost revenue since Thursday. My chains are holding in there so far.”

Rich Lane – Morgantown, WV
“As a hotelier in West Virginia I have experienced firsthand Cancelled reservations and events, laying off staff members.”

HEADLINES ACROSS WEST VIRGINIA ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY
83 news stories in West Virginia regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets including:

Herald Dispatch – A Cruel Paradox: Beating Virus Means Causing US Recession
“Travel industry executives visited the White House on Tuesday with a dire warning on the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic: half of all hotels in the United States could close by year’s end and put 4 million Americans out of work without a massive bailout from Washington.”

“Since mid-February, U.S. hotels have lost an estimated $1.5 billion in room revenue, according to the American Hotel and Lodging Association, a lobbying group. Those losses are rapidly accelerating, with the industry on pace to lose $1.4 billion per week. The hotel industry expects 1 million U.S. jobs have already been eliminated or will be in the next few weeks.”

Bluefield Daily Telegraph – Jobless Claims Jump By 70,000
“Both the one-week rise and the total number of applications were far above the levels seen over the past year as the country’s unemployment rate fell to a half-century low of 3.5%. Economists are predicting a surge in layoffs as efforts to contain the spreading coronavirus result in people losing jobs in a variety of industries from restaurants and bars to airlines and hotels.”