

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), the sole national association representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry, including iconic global brands, hotel owners and franchisees, lodging real estate investment trusts (REITs), hotel management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers, I write to urge Congress to immediately restart negotiations and come to an agreement on additional legislation to help save hotel jobs and address the economic fallout from COVID-19.

Six months since COVID-19 forced a virtual halt to our country, the hotel industry remains on the brink of collapse. This is the single greatest crisis our industry has ever faced. We need urgent action from Congress to support our industry and our employees.

AHLA just [released a report](#) on the current state of the industry in terms of employment, occupancy, and industry trends to provide a snapshot of the severe negative economic impact six months into the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is extremely concerning and outlines five key issues facing the hotel industry today:

- 4 out of 10 hotel employees are still not working
- Almost 2/3 of hotels remain at or below 50 percent occupancy – under the threshold to service debt and break even
- Large, full-service, urban hotels face collapse with crippling low occupancies
- Consumer travel remains at all-time low
- COVID's impact on hotel industry in major cities across the country

[In a letter dated July 20, 2020](#), AHLA urged Congress to move swiftly to help the industry by allowing second draw Paycheck Protection Program loans for severely impacted businesses, creating hotel industry relief opportunities utilizing Federal Reserve and Treasury authority, providing limited liability language for hotels and other public facing industries, and tax provisions to assist severely injured businesses and their employees.

The hotel industry was one of the first industries affected by the COVID pandemic, and we will be one of the last to recover. Hotels are central to getting our economy back on track and support millions of jobs across the country. A full rebound in travel is years away, and Congressional support is urgently needed to bring our employees back, keep our doors open, and survive this crisis. We need action to save our hotels and, more importantly, support the millions of people we are proud to employ.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Crawford
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs