



July 15, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

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, we thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. The economic impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on the hotel industry is the worst our industry has ever faced. As a result of the sharp drop in travel demand from COVID-19, more than half of all U.S. hotel employees remain out of work today.

We are grateful for your leadership in re-opening our economy and returning us to the economic growth we enjoyed just six months ago. As our nation responds to the ever-changing landscape presented during this period of the Coronavirus pandemic, we believe standardizing certain safety practices will encourage a return to travel. Currently about half of all U.S. states and many large cities require the wearing of a face covering in public indoor spaces. We support such a policy as an important part of protecting all guests and employees. Unfortunately, because this policy is not uniform, it ultimately harms domestic travel by increasing uncertainty among travelers and would-be travelers.

We request that your administration publicly support the wearing of face coverings in public indoor spaces. Presidential support for this policy will ultimately lead to more travel and a quicker return to full employment in our industry.

To support your leadership, we will soon be expanding our industry guidance to identify requirements for our guests, including the wearing of face coverings in indoor public spaces, practicing social distancing and reducing in-person contact by selecting contactless options. This guest checklist will be incorporated into AHLA's Safe Stay guidelines, an industry-wide enhanced health and safety protocols designed to provide a safe and clean environment for all hotel guests and employees.

Among those planning to travel in 2020, 68 percent of expectant travelers say they are likely to stay in a hotel. As such, a guest checklist will serve as a tool to educate guests on new industry norms, based on guidance from the CDC, reflecting the industry's commitment to advancing public health precautions during the pandemic.

The health and safety of our guests and employees is our industry's top priority. We realize economic and physical safety should not be separate issues which is why we stand with you in rebuilding our national economy as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chip Rogers
President & Chief Executive Officer