



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Chair, National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Chair, Democratic Governors Association
1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Chair, Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

The Honorable Bryan Barnett
President, The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Governors and Mayor:

On behalf of America's hospitality industry and travel dependent businesses, thank you for your leadership in addressing the impacts of the coronavirus COVID-19 in your states and communities. The undersigned organizations represent a broad cross-section of industries that have come together to address the unprecedented impact of this public health crisis on the hospitality industry at large, which has already greatly affected the U.S. economy and jobs. We stand ready to work with every governor and city leader to ensure the long-term viability of hospitality and travel dependent jobs and businesses given our role in communities across the nation.

In order to sustain the millions of jobs our members support during this difficult time, immediate access to capital is critical. With businesses shuttered and millions of Americans directed to stay at home, the cash flow of hospitality and travel dependent businesses has been reduced to a trickle. And while Congress has approved various relief measures to address this

unprecedented downturn, it is uncertain when the full benefits of those efforts will be realized for Main Street businesses.

It is therefore critical that governors and mayors also take steps to mitigate the staggering job losses already taking place in the hospitality and travel sectors. Among the immediate steps to consider, an emergency forbearance and rent abatement program would preserve the ability of hospitality and travel dependent businesses to survive the travel restrictions and business closures mandated by many states and local governments. We urge you to consider taking executive actions preventing commercial landlords from terminating or evicting business tenants for at least 90 days. We also request that rent payments be abated during this time. Once normal business operations resume, tenants and landlords would then be able to renegotiate the terms of continued occupancy.

These decisive actions coupled with ongoing liquidity efforts by the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department will be instrumental in protecting the jobs and businesses so important to your communities.

We appreciate your timely consideration of these requests and stand ready to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Asian American Hotel Owners Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association
International Franchise Association
National Restaurant Association
U.S. Travel Association

cc: Governors of the United States
Mayors of the United States