



February 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your ongoing attention to the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We respectfully urge you to include further pandemic recovery provisions that maintain and facilitate economic growth in communities in legislative proposals you submit to the Congress. Throughout the country, businesses that have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to face losses due to the uncertainty caused by the Delta and Omicron variants and have been left out of earlier targeted relief efforts.

The Economic Bridge Coalition (EBC), www.economicbridgecoalition.org, is comprised of 17 diverse trade associations and their 2 million-plus member businesses who have something in common: Their businesses have been disproportionately impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, resulting public health measures that forced them to suspend business operations and limit capacity, and the lingering uncertainty posed by the Delta and Omicron variants. The EBC represents approximately \$1.2 trillion in annual economic activity and is comprised primarily of small businesses that represent tens of thousands of jobs in every state. The businesses represented by EBC are built on in-person gatherings or support businesses that rely on this type of travel for business or entertainment gatherings. Yet, unlike other similarly situated businesses such as restaurants and theaters, our industries were ineligible for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program.

As the COVID-19 pandemic stretches on well beyond anyone's expectations, recovery for these mostly small businesses is proceeding substantially slower than expected. Attendance at events is lower than pre-pandemic levels, cancellations are rampant, and future bookings are down significantly. This will impact the health of these businesses, and the communities in which they are located, well into the future. Funds from earlier programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program

and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans are long gone, yet Covid-19-related challenges are not over, and many of these businesses face the additional burden of operating under increased debt load with the simple goal of trying to keep their businesses open and employees on payroll.

We urge you to support legislation that provides relief for the severely impacted businesses our coalition represents, by expanding eligibility for the RRF or the SVOG programs, or by creating a new program modeled after the RRF which would provide relief for otherwise left-behind businesses. Congress should not pick winners and losers, rather, relief should be targeted to the businesses hardest hit by the pandemic.

Thank you for your time and attention to our views. For further information please contact John McClelland at john.mcclelland@ararental.org.

Sincerely,

American Horse Council (AHC)
American Rental Association (ARA)
American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP)
American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA)
Custom Tailors and Designers Association (CTDA)
The Graphic Artist Guild
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)
International Council of Air Shows (ICAS)
Live Events Coalition (LEC)
North American Nature Photography Association
National Press Photographers Association (NPPA)
National Ski Areas Association (NSAA)
Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)
Professional Photographers Association (PPA)
Performance Racing Industry (PRI)
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)