



March 18, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the seven undersigned trade organizations, which represent hundreds of thousands of employees and drivers working in every local community across the country, we are requesting you designate private sector passenger ground transportation companies as essential to the American economy.

The undersigned trade groups represent all manner of passenger transportation: taxicab, livery, paratransit, non-emergency medical, motorcoach, bus, courtesy shuttle, luxury, TNC, and more. As such, the companies we represent and their associated drivers comprise a critical part of our nation's essential transportation infrastructure.

Collectively, our members move 3 billion passengers a year, approximately the same total number of passengers moved by the equally vital airline industry, for example. Hundreds of thousands of drivers, most of them independent, small American companies, affiliate with our members' businesses for their livelihood.

Together, our members and drivers serve people from all walks of life: Travelers going to the airport, interstate transportation, university/college shuttles getting students to class, low-income Americans who live in food deserts going to grocery stores outside of their neighborhoods, and Americans in need of life-saving medical treatments such as weekly dialysis, to name a few.

Our industry is facing very real crippling financial losses and tens of thousands of our workers have already been laid off. With the Federal government and states recommending that Americans severely restrict their movements, our industry has suffered immediate economic losses. The crisis threatens to shutter critical and essential public transportation operations forever.

People in communities across the United States rely on our services for their jobs, medical needs, getting kids to school, and other daily activities that some may take for granted. We are asking you to work with us on specific and targeted financial relief that will help ensure our industry is able to recover and provide essential services to the public in the future.

Our members are reporting staggering loss projections of up to 95 percent now—precipitous declines that are expected to extend well into the months ahead. Without specific assistance from the federal government, many of these businesses will close forever. If that happens, the country will lose critical transportation infrastructure: the people, vehicles, call centers, maintenance facilities and services that keep America moving. We must ensure this industry survives for the future.

As the federal government explores ways to render assistance, we wish to propose the following concrete actions:

1. Deem the industry a national “essential service.”
2. Provide \$12 billion in immediate cash grants to fleet operators to provide industry relief.
3. Ensure guaranteed vehicle loan deferment/forbearance for at least 120 days.
4. Declare the industry is eligible for zero-interest SBA loans and ensure such loans are made available within two weeks of application, with no payments due for six months.
5. Mandate that all government accounts with transportation companies be paid within five days of billing.
6. Require insurance companies to suspend auto liability premiums on passenger transportation vehicles pulled out of service, without requiring transportation companies turn in their license plates.
7. Allow operators to postpone real estate tax payments as well as vehicle fuel and utilities payments such as phone, electricity and internet services, without penalty or disconnection.
8. Open a pipeline to cleaning products to ensure vehicles are regularly sanitized, and to help our industry promote the safety of our services.

Never before have our disparate organizations come together in such a fashion, but we do so now because we desperately seek your help in these unprecedented and most challenging times amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The financial hardships this virus has wrought cannot be overstated. We need your help if we are to be there for America when this nightmare is over.

We are ready to answer any questions you may have as you formulate a national plan to save American lives, critical infrastructure and our economy. Thank you for your leadership during what is surely one of the most distressing moments in our nation’s history. We wish you, your colleagues and your families the very best in the difficult months ahead.

Sincerely,

Tom Arrighi
President
The Transportation Alliance

Robert Alexander
President
National Limousine Association

Peter J. Pantuso
President & CEO
American Bus Association

Scott Solombrino
Executive Director & COO
Global Business Travel
Association

Larry Killingsworth
President & CEO
United Motorcoach
Association

Jeffrey Foland
Chairman
Near Airport Parking
Industry Trade Association

Ray Mundy
Executive Director
Airport Ground
Transportation Association

Cc: The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury

Mr. Larry Kudlow
Director
National Economic Council

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Secretary
U.S. Small Business Administration