

Dear Senator/Congressman X –

I represent the (VENUE HERE), and I am a member of the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM). Our public assembly venue plays a vital role in our community in bringing people together. We are also an economic force multiplier, with our events helping to fill area hotels, restaurants and retail establishments.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were the first to close, and we will be among the last to reopen. Our facility will likely lose \$XXX in revenue from cancelled events for 2020. In addition, our community will lose out on a projected \$XXX of economic impact. In order to reopen, we will incur significant additional costs for COVID-19 mitigation to keep our guests and employees safe.

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 related relief and recovery legislation, I am urging you to consider the following additions to help our venue, and others like us, to survive during this crisis and get back up and running as quickly as we can, once this crisis has passed:

Extend and Expand the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Under the CARES Act – Many venues do not qualify for the CARES Act worker protection programs, because they are nonprofits outside of 501(c)3s, they have too many employees (because part-time workers are also counted with full-time employees), or they were created by local or state governments or public authorities, despite the fact that they function on their own and mainly depend on event revenue and hospitality taxes to fund our operating budgets. These eligibility rules must be expanded to cover venues, which play a key role in our local economies. The PPP's funding must be increased and also extended beyond the initial eight weeks, since many venues are likely to be closed longer than other businesses.

Expand Eligibility Rules for Main Street Lending Program – Similar to the PPP, many public assembly venues are ineligible to apply for the Department of Treasury's Main Street Lending Program. As Congress and the Federal Reserve Board considers expanding eligibility to non-profits, we ask for your support to ensure that our venues are included in the eligibility requirements.

Guidelines and Liability Protections for Public Gatherings for Entertainment and Events – Any resumption of public gatherings will require new measures regarding cleaning and sanitization, crowd management, physical distancing seat plans, and health monitoring. We are urging the federal government to work with us to develop guidelines and best practices for public venues, and for those of us who comply, to provide protection from COVID-related lawsuits. We will also need help with the costs associated with these measures and the financial strain that will result from producing events for fewer paying customers.

Establish a Targeted Business Recovery Relief Fund: We have been devastated by the sudden and total interruption in our operations. The cancelled family shows, concerts, conventions, and Broadway tours, and the revenues tied to them, can never be replaced. Many insurance

carriers have preemptively asserted that property damage and event cancellation policies will not provide coverage related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, I am urging Congress to establish a Business Recovery Fund for public assembly venues (and others in the event and hospitality industry), modeled on the 9-11 Victims Fund, to aid the businesses and their employees that were forced to shut down due to COVID-19, and who will continue to struggle even after the economy restarts.

Thank you for considering my request, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

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