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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

June 3, 2020

Tom Arrighi
President
The Transportation Alliance
3200 Tower Oaks Boulevard, Suite 220
Rockville, MD 20852

William J. Flynn
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
1 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20001

Larry Killingsworth
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Motorcoach Association
113 South Wester Street, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Rick Middleton
Director, Passenger Transportation Division
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20001

Curt Macysyn
Executive Director
National School Transportation Association
122 South Royal Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mike Martin
Executive Director
National Association for Pupil Transportation
1840 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Peter J. Pantuso
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Bus Association
111 K Street Northeast, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

William Plamondon
President
American Car Rental Association
P.O. Box 584
Long Lake, NY 12847

Tom Quaadman
Executive Vice President
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20062

Larry Willis
President
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
815 16th Street Northwest, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear friends:

The COVID-19 crisis has brought serious new challenges and hardships on our nation. As these difficulties continue to affect our lives, the resilience and resourcefulness shown by our frontline workers has been remarkable. They are providing critical care, services, goods, and supplies to the people and communities that need them. These contributions are seen across industries, and the passenger transportation sector is no exception. We appreciate the vital

services that you, your members, and many other companies and workers provide our nation, and we recognize the difficult circumstances that the passenger transportation industry is experiencing.

As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has stated, “Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the COVID-19 emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well-being.”¹ This includes workers supporting personal and commercial transportation services, such as taxicabs and transportation network providers, bus drivers, passenger and commuter trains, and many more.

As our nation takes steps to recover from COVID-19, it is vital to protect the health and safety of the traveling public. Like other sectors of our economy, transportation services will need to adapt to face new realities. Resuming normal operations in a safe and responsible manner will require a thoughtful approach and willingness to explore new solutions.

In this spirit, we would ask that you consider the questions below. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation would welcome your feedback and additional information regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on our passenger transportation system and the industry’s response to these challenges. Your firsthand insights and experiences can help to inform how we learn from this situation and respond to it, as well as future crises that may arise.

- What impacts have you seen from COVID-19 on passenger transportation operations and how have you responded to these impacts?
- What are your expectations for continued impacts on the passenger transportation system in the near future and its response to a reopening of the economy? What impacts do you anticipate for the passenger transportation system in the long term?
- How have critical infrastructure employees been affected during the COVID-19 crisis while performing their duties, and what steps have been taken to protect them?
- What steps has your organization or have your members taken to protect the safety of the traveling public?
- What additional guidance or support would be useful from the U.S. Department of Transportation, other federal agencies, and from Congress as you move forward during the COVID-19 public health crisis?
- Please describe any ways that you or your members have been affected by the CARES Act and how it has affected your employees, operations, or other aspects of your business.

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response, March 28, 2020, available at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_1.pdf.

We look forward to working with each of you to ensure America's passenger transportation system continues to provide essential services to the people who need them while keeping our frontline workers safe and secure.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roger F. Wicker in blue ink.

Roger F. Wicker
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Maria Cantwell in blue ink.

Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member