[INSERT LAWMAKER ADDRESS HERE]

[DEAR REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR XXXXXXXXXX,]

As [INSERT POSITION] of [INSERT COMPANY NAME], I am writing to express concern with the impacts the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis is having on the travel and tourism industry. I am focused on the ability for our industry to recover and return to normal both internationally and domestically in a rapid and safe manner.

Our company, located in [INSERT COMPANY LOCATION] in your [DISTRICT/STATE] provides opportunities for people to travel the United States and the world. [USTOA MEMBER ADD COMPANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION HERE].

We are also a proud [ACTIVE/ASSOCIATE] member of the United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA). USTOA is a professional, voluntary trade association created with the primary purpose of promoting integrity within the tour operator industry. USTOA was founded in 1972 to provide a unified voice to protect the traveling public, as well as to represent the interests of tour operators. In 1975, USTOA became a national organization with its headquarters in New York. USTOA Active Members represent a $19 billion industry that purchases nearly $13 billion in goods and services for travel packages. Active Members, together with USTOA Associate Members, employ over 450,000 U.S. citizens.

Since the beginning of March, the pandemic has resulted in over $138 billion in cumulative losses for the travel economy in the United States. The week ending April 25 was the eighth consecutive week of contraction. Additionally, at the end of the same week, the travel economy fell 88% below last year’s levels and travel spending recorded a $19.4 billion loss as compared to the same week one year ago. Current data suggests that travel-related spending will fall by $355 billion by the end of the year as a result of the crisis. Data also suggests that travel industry losses will result in a GDP impact of $1.2 trillion in 2020 and that travel declines in 2020 will result in a loss of $80 billion in taxes this year, a reduction of 4.6 million travel-related jobs and an over $800 billion hit to the economy.

Internationally, the global revenue for the travel and tourism industry will be an estimated $447.7 billion in 2020 (a 34.7% decrease from 2019), significantly lower than the original 2020 forecast of $712 billion.

Travelers interested in traveling abroad do not have many options currently due to international travel restrictions issued by Presidential Proclamations and limited international flights. Further, in March, the State Department issued its highest Alert Level (Level 4) for international travel, telling Americans to avoid international travel. This advisory remains in place. One of our largest fears is that Europe takes similar, reciprocal action to limit Americans’ ability to travel to the continent writ large. However, some countries, including Ireland and Iceland for example, have indicated they will lift individual restrictions over the summer – highly positive developments.

Should existing US restrictions extend into the fall of this year, let alone 2021, it would decimate the travel economy, my business, and many of USTOA’s member businesses. My company, along with most of USTOA’s members, currently have significant amounts of revenue already booked for European travel this coming July through October. Despite the fact that new booking demand has flatlined at the moment, there continues to be interest in travel in the coming months. The next 30 days are critical with respect to indicating an ability to provide a safe travel experience.

I urge you to work with the Administration and your colleagues on Capitol Hill to carefully consider mirroring efforts to ease restrictions domestically and apply those same efforts on the international front. If done with prudence and care and with the safety of our citizens in mind, the economic benefits will be significant and will reflect governmental and consumer confidence that we can put this pandemic behind us.

[INSERT COMPANY NAME] and USTOA are committed to serving as a resource to you during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE HERE]

[INSERT NAME HERE]

[INSERT POSITION HERE]

[INSERT COMPNY NAME]