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State of Alaska, *EX OFFICIO*



December 4, 2020

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

On behalf of the more than 600 members of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), congratulations on your recent elections to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress starting in January 2021. As you close out the current session and enter the new year, you and your colleagues in the U.S. House will be faced with serious challenges. Together, you will be able to make a difference for Alaskans, and for all Americans.

We know you recognize Alaska's tourism industry has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic. With virtually no cruise ships, decreased air travel, and no cross-border vehicle travel in 2020, our businesses struggled to stay in business. Our industry – which normally provides 1 in 10 Alaska jobs – had the largest declines in employment statewide.

We are hurting and we need your help.

Winter and summer, we are experiencing incredible losses in revenue, uncertainty in future bookings, and fear for when we have to repay CARES Act loans. But we are also hopeful.

As you work with your colleagues across the aisle, we request that you consider the following opportunities to help our troubled industry:

- Extend the Paycheck Protection Program through 2021 and consider the needs of Alaska's seasonal workers as well as 501(c)6 industry associations that will be critical in helping our industry recover as travel returns.
- Enhance and extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund through at least the end of 2021.
- Provide financial and logistical support for expanded local testing programs and accessibility to PPE to protect our employees, customers and communities.
- Provide targeted liability protection for businesses that follow proper health and safety guidelines to protect against COVID-19.
- Support sector-specific efforts that help transportation providers bring visitors to and through Alaska, including support for the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act of 2020 (CERTS) Act (H.R. 7642) as well as additional emergency assistance to U.S. airports.

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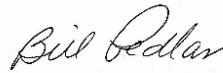
These are challenging times, and we very much appreciate your commitment to serving in public office. You will have many hard conversations in the coming months, but we know you will keep our industry – and all Alaskans – top of mind.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or support for your legislative efforts. Again, thank you for all you do for Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sarah Leonard  
ATIA President & CEO



Bill Pedlar  
Knightly Tours  
Chair, ATIA Board of Directors



Julie Saupe  
Visit Anchorage  
ATIA Government Relations Co-Chair



Holly Johnson  
Wings Airways & Taku Glacier Lodge  
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