

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION\*

---

**President Donald J. Trump**

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell**

Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Charles Schumer**

Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Steven Terner Mnuchin**

Secretary  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
Washington, D.C. 20220

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**

Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Kevin McCarthy**

Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

July 16, 2020

Dear President Trump, Secretary Mnuchin, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your efforts to modify the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) so that it works for the small travel businesses and employees who are struggling to survive this economic downturn. We strongly encourage you to make sure that any legislation to amend the PPP also expands the program's eligibility to include destination marketing organizations (DMOs) of all sizes and structures, which are small business champions and the economic engines of the travel industry. Importantly, if there is a transition to another small enterprise relief program, DMOs will first need access to the PPP.

Our country's DMOs, convention and visitors bureaus (CVBs) and state tourism offices are classified as 501(c) nonprofits or quasi-governmental organizations, which are currently ineligible for the PPP—and most notably the loan forgiveness the program offers—under the CARES Act. They remain ineligible following the most recent PPP funding agreement. As civic-oriented nonprofits, it is even more difficult for them to qualify for other types of SBA loans, denying them the capital they need to keep hard-working Americans employed. A staggering 58% of DMOs have had to lay off or furlough some of their staff and 38% of all DMO travel workers are now out of work. Any shuttering of these organizations jeopardizes the very work that will be integral to our nation's recovery efforts.

DMOs, CVBs and state tourism offices are some of the primary drivers of economic benefits in our communities and the entire United States. It is their efforts that drive customers to local small businesses and support local jobs—placing them at the forefront of economic development for communities nationwide. It is their work that will help restore travel and power America's recovery efforts.

The travel industry has been disproportionately harmed by the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19. Travel-related job losses have surpassed 8 million at its lowest point in May, representing 38% of all jobs losses. The unemployment rate in the travel industry is 51%, which is more than twice the highest unemployment rate during the worst year of the Great Depression. This year, travel spending is expected to decline \$505 billion, representing \$1.2 billion in economic loss—10 times the impact of 9/11. Simply put, the travel industry cannot recover from the greatest economic crisis in our lifetimes without the important work of DMOs. DMOs will promote the businesses and attractions that have safely reopened, provide travelers with information about how to travel safely and keep themselves and our communities healthy during their stay.

Unfortunately, DMOs have seen their funding all but dry up due to the crisis, as most rely on travel-related tax revenues for funding. Unless they can access the payroll and business expense support provided by the PPP, many DMOs will close their doors for good. It must be emphasized that allowing all 501(c) and quasi-governmental DMOs—regardless of size, structure or revenue—access to the PPP will have a positive and powerful ripple effect across the entire country. Therefore, we respectfully and urgently request that any legislation to amend the PPP includes expanded eligibility for all 501(c) and quasi-governmental DMOs so these organizations can secure the critical relief they need to be in the best position to help rebuild our country.

Signed,

Gregg M. Mervis  
President & CEO  
Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau

Pam Swanner  
Director  
Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association

Tami Reist  
President  
Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

Patti A. Culp, CAE  
President & CEO  
Alabama Travel Council

Kale Mortensen  
Executive Director  
Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rashelle Beasley  
Executive Director  
Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau

Melissa Haines  
CEO  
Amador Council of Tourism

Matt Rust  
Executive Director  
Anderson Madison County (Indiana) Visitors Bureau

Ron Price  
President & CEO  
Arlington  
CVB

Debbie Braun  
President & CEO  
Aspen Chamber Resort Association

Michelle Mason  
President and CEO  
Association Forum

Teresa Todd  
President  
Athens Limestone County Tourism

Cookie Smoak  
President  
ATL Airport District CVB

William Pate  
President and CEO  
Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau

John Wild  
President  
Auburn-Opelika Tourism

Cort Carlson  
Executive Director  
Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Alf Anderson  
Executive Director  
Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Brandi Beasley  
Executive Director  
Barboursville CVB

Timothy Ishman  
Director  
Beaver County Tourism

Candi Whitworth  
Executive Director  
Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce/CVB

Kristi Gee  
CEO  
Belgrade Chamber of Commerce & CVB

Brandon Kelley  
Managing Director  
Bella Vista Advertising and Promotions Commission

Julie Wagner  
CEO  
Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau

Jerry Preston  
President  
Birch Run Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Diane Bausman  
Executive Director  
Blackhawk Waterways CVB

Jessica Willi  
Executive Director  
Block Island Tourism Council

Bonnie Carlson  
President & CEO  
Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau

Tracy Brown  
Executive Director  
Blowing Rock, NC TDA

Barbara Green  
CEO  
Blue Mountain Resort

Tubby Kubik  
Executive Director  
Blue Ridge Parkway Association

Philip Bates  
CEO  
Bode

Carrie Westergard  
Executive Director  
Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau

Bill Connors  
President & CEO  
Boise Metro Chamber

Daryl W Schliem  
CEO  
Bozeman CVB

Robyn Cummings  
Executive Director  
Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency

S Kyle Hinkle  
Executive Director  
Brewster Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Lori Hill  
Tourism Director  
Broken Arrow Convention and Visitors Bureau

Mark Hecquet  
President / CEO  
Butler County Visitors Bureau

Maria Pochervina  
Executive Director  
Butte Montana Convention & Visitors Bureau

Donna Carpenter  
President/CEO  
Cabarrus County CVB

Joy Liptak VanDrie  
Executive Director  
Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau

Carrie Stansbury  
Executive Director  
Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau

Linda Freybler  
CEO  
Calhoun County Visitors Bureau

Michael Reitzell  
President  
California Ski Industry Association

Yuliana Gonzalez  
Executive Director  
Camarillo Hotel and Tourism Association

Marie Oliva  
President & CEO  
Cape Cod Canal Region Foundation

Wendy Northcross  
CEO  
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce/CVB

Miriam Atria  
President/CEO  
Capital City/Lake Murray Country

Scott Balyo  
Executive Director  
Capital Region USA

Jordan Wren  
Executive Director  
Carbondale Tourism

Jan Vandermade  
Executive Director  
Carson Valley Visitors Authority

Lisa Maragnano  
Executive Director  
CARTA

Larina Cassidy  
Vice President  
Catalina Backcountry

Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy  
President  
Catalina Business Services

Jim Luttjohann  
President & CEO  
Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau

Karen Kuhl  
Executive Director  
Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Gayle Fisher  
Executive Director  
Central Montana Tourism

Courtney Cacatian  
Executive Director  
Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau

Nicole Densmore  
President & CEO  
Chatsworth-Eton-Murray County Chamber of Commerce

Jonathan Edward Reinert  
CEO  
Chattanooga Riverboat Company

Barry White  
President and CEO  
Chattanooga Tourism Co.

Susan Hamley  
Executive Director  
Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau

Jim Garrett  
President/CEO  
Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau

Gina Speckman  
Executive Director  
Chicago's North Shore CVB

David Whitaker  
President & CEO  
Choose Chicago

Julie Calvert  
President & CEO  
Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau

DeNae McGee  
Tourism Manager  
City of Bothell

David B. Dillner  
City Manager  
City of El Dorado, Kansas

Gilda Stanbery  
Executive Director/CEO  
City of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau

LeighAnn K. Snuggs  
Director  
City of Gaffney Department of Marketing & Tourism

Susan Wettstein  
Community Development  
City of Garnett, Kansas

Staci Wilken  
Executive Director  
City of Kankakee

Michael Lamar  
City Manager  
City of Prescott

Ed Caum  
Executive Director  
City of South Padre Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

Julie Brennan  
Tourism Director  
Clinton County Tourist Promotion Agency

Milton Segarra  
CEO  
Coastal Mississippi

Julie Saddler  
Executive Director  
Colby Convention & Visitor Bureau

Debra Yee  
Executive Director  
Coldwater Country CVB

Emily Reed  
Network Director  
Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance

David E. Kurecian  
Executive Director  
Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau

K'Lynn Lane  
Executive Director  
Condon Chamber of Commerce

Leisha Elliott  
Executive Director  
Convention & Visitors Bureau of Marion County, Inc.

Rachel Shaw  
Executive Director  
Conway CVB

Janice Langlinais  
Executive Director  
Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau

Meghan Lawton  
Executive Director  
Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Juanita Hampton  
Executive Director  
Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Dave Lawrence President & CEO  
Cultural Council for Palm Beach County

Margaret Thigpen, TMP  
Director of Tourism  
Dalton Area CVB

D. Jeanie Cooke E  
Executive Director  
Danville Area CVB

Jacquelyn Y. Powell  
President & CEO  
Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau

Lori Campbell Baker  
Executive Director  
Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Debbie Smith  
Executive Director  
Dearborn County Convention, Visitor & Tourism Commission

Danielle Gibson  
President/CEO  
Decatur Morgan County Tourism

Ken DeFoor  
Partner  
DeFoor Brothers Development

Cortney Strohacker  
Executive Director  
DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau

John Dersham  
President/CEO  
DeKalb Tourism

Jim Mansfield  
Executive Director  
Delaware County (Indiana) Convention & Tourism Commission

David Gilbert  
President/CEO  
Destination Cleveland

Elliott Ferguson  
President & CEO  
Destination DC

Wendy Haase  
Vice President  
Destination Irvine

Sandy Smith  
Executive Director  
Destination Lancaster

Cassandra Harrington  
Executive Director  
Destination Marketing Corporation (Otsego and Schoharie  
Counties NY)

Barbara Neilan  
Executive Director  
Destination Missoula

John Percy  
President and CEO  
Destination Niagara USA

Marysue Costello  
President/CEO  
Destination Yellowstone/West Yellowstone Chamber of  
Commerce

Julia Hertel  
Executive Director  
Destinations Wisconsin

Larry D. Alexander  
President & CEO  
Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jill Delaney  
President & CEO  
Discover Albany

Susan Amey  
President & CEO  
Discover Durham

Rebecca Gallagher  
Board Chair  
Discover Lancaster

Kristen Jarnagin  
President & CEO  
Discover Long Island

Chris Jennings  
Executive Director  
Discover New England

Evan Smith  
President & CEO  
Discover Newport

Brad Dean  
CEO  
Discover Puerto Rico

Darryl Leggieri  
President  
Discover Saratoga

Rebecca Daniels  
Executive Director  
Discover Schenectady

Becky Bakken  
President & CEO  
Discover St. Louis Park

Jorge Pesquera  
CEO  
Discover The Palm Beaches

Linda Amato  
Chair  
Discover Torrance

Tim Todd  
Executive Director  
Discover Upcountry Carolina Association

Janet Reed  
Executive Director  
Durant Area Chamber of Commerce

Mary Kay Vrba  
President & CEO  
Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

Krisilee Murphy  
Executive Director  
Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Janna Clark  
Executive Director  
Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau

Diana Lawson  
CEO  
Elkhart County CVB

Jean Ruhf  
Executive Director  
Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau

Brent Cory  
President/CEO  
Enjoy Eagan

Hugh A. Stump III  
Executive Director  
Etowah County Tourism Board

Ann G Sparks  
Tourism Director  
Eufaula Barbour Chamber of Commerce

Gina Rambo  
Interim Director  
Eureka Springs City Advertising & Promotion Commission

Sandy Martin  
President  
Eureka Springs Economic Development Council

Amie Burrill  
Executive Director  
Experience Burnsville

Ryan Maum  
CEO  
Experience Chattanooga, LLC

Bill Elen  
President & CEO  
Experience Columbia SC

Molly Rawn  
CEO  
Experience Fayetteville

Douglas Small  
President & CEO  
Experience Grand Rapids

DT Minich  
President/CEO  
Experience Kissimmee

Shauna Stewart  
CEO  
Experience Olympia & Beyond

Rachel Sacco  
President & CEO  
Experience Scottsdale

Teri Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Experience Sioux Falls

James Feist  
Executive Director  
Explore Alexandria Tourism

Stephanie Pace Brown  
President & CEO  
Explore Asheville

Renee Areng  
Executive Director  
Explore Brookhaven Georgia

Carolyn Denero  
Executive Director  
Explore Butte County

Deb Hickok  
President and CEO  
Explore Fairbanks

Lisa Anders  
Executive Director  
Explore Gwinnett

Michael Davidson  
Executive Director  
eXplore Lawrence

Laura Gurreri  
President  
Explore York

Nort Johnson  
President/CEO  
Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Lisa G. Burns, CTIS  
Executive Director  
Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council

Valerie Knoblauch  
President and CEO  
Finger Lakes Visitors Connection

Roxanne Morgan  
Executive Director  
Finney County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Jeremy W. Yackle  
Executive Director  
First Capital Tourism Development Corp.

Claude W. Legris  
Executive Director  
Fort Smith, AR Advertising and Promotion Commission

Mickey McCamish  
Executive Director Friends of the Festival

Terese Petcoff  
Executive Director  
Gardiner Chamber of Commerce & CVB

Mark Adams  
President / CEO  
Gatlinburg CVB / Chamber of Commerce

John Adams  
Vice President  
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Paula Schmidt  
President  
Geneva Chamber of Commerce

Joseph L. Markwalter, III  
Executive Director  
Georgia Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus

Lisa Smith  
Executive Director  
Georgia's Rome Office of Tourism

Norris Flowers  
President/CEO  
Gettysburg Travel Council

Eric A. Heidenreich  
Executive Director  
Gibson County Visitors and Tourism, Inc.

Racene Friede  
President CEO  
Glacier Country Tourism

Terence Concannon  
President/CEO  
Go Lake Havasu

Marci Cisneros  
Executive Director  
Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kelli Hepler  
President  
Grand Mesa National Scenic and Historic Byway Association

Marieta Hauser  
Director  
Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Rebecca Engum  
Executive Director  
Great Falls Montana Tourism

Mandy Davis  
Executive Director  
Great Plains Country Association

Brett Stawar  
President & CEO  
Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau

Kerrie Tripp  
Executive Director  
Greater Bangor Convention & Visitors Bureau

J. John Oros Jr.  
President & CEO  
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau

Keith Blackburn  
President/CEO  
Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Julie Pingston  
President & CEO  
Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau

Wendy E. Kallergis  
President & CEO  
Greater Miami & the Beaches Hotel Association

William D. Talbert, III  
President & CEO  
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

Craig White  
Executive Director  
Greater Moundsville CVB

Meme Yanetsko  
Chief Operating Officer  
Greater Olean (NY) Area Chamber of Commerce

Michael Krouse  
President and CEO  
Greater Ontario Convention and Visitors Bureau

Scott White  
President & CEO  
Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau

Mark Lewis  
President and CEO  
Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau



Brad Toll  
President/CEO  
Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jackie Stewart  
Executive Director  
Green Country, Inc.

Kara D. Dense  
Executive Director  
Greenbrier County CVB

Danielle Morgan  
Executive Director  
Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau

Donnie Crain  
President  
Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

Herb Malone  
CEO  
Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

Daniel P. Spedden  
President  
Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Michele Moure-Reeves  
Executive Director  
Hardy County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Cyndi Williams  
Executive Director  
Harwich Chamber of Commerce

Debrina Williams  
Executive Director  
Hatfield McCoy Convention & Visitors Bureau

Lynn Collins  
Executive Director  
Haywood County Tourism Development Authority

Jaime Bohler Smith  
Executive Director  
Hendricks County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Bob Navarro  
President  
Heritage Corridor CVB

Bill Miles  
President & CEO  
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

Lainey Muenich  
CEO  
Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce

Linda Hart  
Interim Executive Director Holland Area CVB

Tyrisha Battle  
Executive Director  
Holly Springs Tourism & Recreation Bureau

Kate Schroeder  
Executive Director  
Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

Sandra T. Wilson  
Executive Director  
Horse Cave/Hart County Tourism

Rob Mortensen  
CEO  
Hospitality TN

Sondra Corbitt  
Executive Director  
Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Brenda Bazan  
CEO  
Houston First

Virginia Anne Sharber  
Executive Director  
Hunter Museum of American Art

Matthew A. Price  
Executive Director  
Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau

Tyson Compton  
President  
Huntington Area CVB - Huntington, WV

Judy Ryals  
President & CEO  
Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Debra Teufel  
President/CEO  
Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, Visit Hutch

Fran Thibodeaux  
Executive Director  
Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau

Darlene Chapman  
Interim Pres/CEO  
ILLINOISouth Tourism

Denise Liggett  
Executive Director  
Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Pennsylvania

Lorelei Weimer  
Executive Director  
Indiana Dunes Tourism

Carrie Lambert  
Executive Director  
Indiana Tourism Association

Maura Allen Gast  
Executive Director  
Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau

Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy  
President  
Island Fire Extinguishers

Nick Breedlove  
Executive Director  
Jackson County TDA

Arann Banks  
Executive Director  
Jackson County Visitor Center

Anna Olson  
President/CEO  
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce

Brittany Henry  
Executive Director  
Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Violet Peters  
President & CEO  
Jefferson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Annette Gavin Bates  
CEO  
Jefferson County CVB

Katrina Ruchardson  
Executive Director  
Jefferson County Tourist Development Council

Florence Baron  
Executive Director  
Jersey City Economic Development Corporation

Lynda M Fort  
Executive Director  
Kansas Bed and Breakfast Association

Pete Bradley  
President  
Kent County Tourism Corporation

Patti Mackey  
President & CEO  
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

Brad Barnett  
Executive Director  
Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jill S. Boggs  
CEO  
Kosciusko County Convention and Visitors Bureau

James A. Zaleski  
Executive Director  
Labette County, KS CVB

Curt Camoni  
Executive Director  
Lackawanna County Visitor's Bureau

Phyllis J. Youga  
Executive Director  
LaGrange County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Connie Morris  
Executive Director  
Lake Eufaula Association

Andrew Chapman  
President/CEO  
Lake Tahoe Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau

Carol Chaplin  
President and CEO  
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

Brandi Burkhalter  
Executive Director  
Lake Texoma Association

Andrzej Zalasinski, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

Steve Hill  
CEO/President  
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

Kendall Clinton  
Executive Director  
Lawrenceburg/Anderson County Tourism Commission

Dr. Sylvia Burgess  
CEO/President  
Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chris Richards  
Executive Director  
Lewis County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Sally Fuller  
Director  
Liberal Convention and Visitors Bureau

Holly Lofton  
Director  
Lindsborg Convention and Visitors Bureau

Judy Hultstrum  
Director  
Litchfield Visitors Bureau

Kristina Vonberge  
Executive Director  
Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau

Gretchen Hall  
President & CEO  
Little Rock CVB

Mary Robinson  
Executive Director  
Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Marilee Johnson  
Tourist Center Director  
Logan County (Colorado) Tourism

Steve Goodling  
President & CEO  
Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau

Ernest Wooden Jr.  
President & CEO  
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board

Richard Fischer  
Interim Executive Director  
Louisiana Charter Boat Association

Jill Kidder  
President/CEO  
Louisiana Travel Association

Timothy Bush  
President  
Louisiana's Cajun Bayou Tourism

Karen Williams  
CEO  
Louisville Tourism

Tim Hygh  
Executive Director  
Mackinac Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ann G. Sparks  
Executive Director  
Main Street Eufaula, Inc.

Tony Cameron  
Chief Executive Officer  
Maine Tourism Association

John Urdi  
Executive Director  
Mammoth Lakes Tourism

Karen Hibbard  
Vice President  
Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kathryn Kenny  
Executive Director  
Manistee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Mark Essman  
President/CEO  
Marin County CVB

Janet Zaldua  
CEO  
Marina del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau

Tammie Thompson-Booker  
Vice President  
Mars Hospitality, LLC

Mark Jordan  
Executive Director  
Martinsburg-Berkeley County CVB

Ruth Toomey  
Executive Director  
Maryland Tourism Coalition

Jon Reinert  
GM / Owner  
Mayor's Mansion Inn

Joni Regnier  
CVB Director  
McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jim Kirkos  
President and CEO  
Meadowlands Live CVB

Steven Adkins  
President/CEO  
Miami Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Larisa Draves  
Executive Director  
Michigan Association of CVBs

Suzanne Wheeler  
Executive Director  
Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce

David Burgess  
President & CEO Miles Partnership

Cyd Haynes  
Executive Director  
Minneapolis Northwest Tourism

Rochelle Hicks  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Tourism Association

Elaine Gizler  
Executive Director  
Moab Area Travel Council

Lyle Todd Aaronson  
CEO  
Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Carla Hunsley  
Executive Director  
Montana's Missouri River Country

Robert O'Keefe  
President & CEO  
Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dawn Hathcock  
Senior Vice President  
Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitor Bureau

Lizzie Keenan  
Regional Coordinator  
Mt. Hood and the Columbia River Gorge Regional Tourism Alliance

Cori Ann Cearley  
Executive Director and President  
Munising Visitors Bureau

Karen Riordan  
President & CEO  
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and CVB

J. Stephen Perry  
President and CEO  
New Orleans & Company

Becky Sullivan  
Executive Director  
New River Gorge CVB

Deborah A Meihls, CDME  
CEO  
New Smyrna Beach Area Visitors Bureau

Robert Provost  
President / CEO  
New York State Tourism Industry Association

Gary Sherwin  
President/CEO  
Newport Beach and Company

Vincent Chelena  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Travel Industry Association

Jeffrey Hentz  
CEO  
North Lake Tahoe Resort Assoc/CVB

Bob Major  
President & CEO  
North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ann Marie Casey  
Executive Director  
North of Boston CVB

Alicia Phelps  
Executive Director  
Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association

Eric Summe  
President & CEO  
Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitors Bureau

Lisa Peterson  
President  
Northfield Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Mike Cassidy  
President  
Northwind Refrigeration, Inc.

Fred Dixon  
CEO and President  
NYC & Company

Ross D. Levi  
Executive Director  
NYS Division of Tourism / I LOVE NY - Empire State  
Development

Kendal Miller  
Executive Director  
Ohio County Convention, Tourism and Visitors Commission

Melinda Huntley  
Executive Director  
Ohio Travel Association

John R. Phillips II  
President and CEO  
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, & Tourism

Michael J. Carrier  
President  
Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau

Debra Bailey  
CEO  
Oklahoma Travel Industry Association

Kelly Peetoom  
Vice President  
Olathe Convention and Visitors Bureau

Kristin Dillensnyder  
Managing Director/Interim Director  
Olde English District Tourism

Marsha Massey  
Executive Director  
Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau

Lennie Busch  
CFO Founder  
One World Enterprises, Inc.

Tim Kellstrom  
President  
Oscoda Area CVB

Christina L. Hinkson  
Board President  
Ouray Tourism Office

Karen Pehrson  
Director of Conventions & Tourism  
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Julie Mino  
President & CEO  
Oxnard Convention & Visitors Bureau

Andi Day  
Executive Director  
Pacific County Tourism Bureau/Visit Long Beach Peninsula

Jordan Elliott  
President  
Pacific Northwest Ski Areas' Association

Mary Hammond  
Executive Director  
Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau

Missi Campbell  
Executive Director  
Palm City Chamber of Commerce

Amy Lukasik  
Executive Director  
Palm Coast and the Flagler Beaches

Daniel J Rowe  
President & CEO  
Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau

William Malone  
Pres. and CEO  
Park City Chamber/Bureau

Michael Ross  
CEO  
Pasadena Center Operating Company

Russell E. Schleiden  
CEO  
Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park

John A. Straitiff  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau

Crystal Seitz  
President  
Pennsylvania's Americana Region Visitors Bureau

Joseph Dalfonso  
President/CEO  
Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dawn V. Perez  
Executive Director  
Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Office

Marie McCusker  
Executive Director  
Petaluma Downtown Association & Visitors Center

Peter Fitzsimons  
Executive Director  
Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau

Julie Coker  
President and CEO  
Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Judge Renee Cardwell Hughes  
President & CEO  
Philadelphia OIC

Leon Downey  
Executive Director  
Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism

Mrs. Hank Arnold  
Executive Director  
Pine Mountain Tourism Association Inc.

Jon Kinworthy  
Owner  
Pints and Pedals

Erica Volkir  
Executive Director  
Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB

Robert Haswell  
CEO  
Placer County Visitor's Bureau

Lea Filson  
Executive Director  
Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Cara Rose  
Executive Director  
Pocahontas County CVB

Christopher Barrett  
President/CEO  
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

Robert M Lander  
President & CEO  
Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Trisha Growe  
President & CEO  
Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce

Mia Littlejohn  
Partner  
PROOF LLC

Kristen L. Adamo  
President & CEO  
Providence Warwick CVB

Radu Luca  
Executive Director  
Provincetown Chamber of Commerce

Linda Irvin  
Executive Director  
PSAA (Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association)

Rod Slyhoff  
President & CEO  
Pueblo Chamber of Commerce

Kelli Steele  
Executive Director  
Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Marc Sapoznik  
Executive Director  
Rancho Cordova Travel & Tourism

Sherry Weamer  
Executive Director  
Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB

Jennifer Cunningham  
Interim  
President & CEO Reno Tahoe

Matthew P Lewis  
Executive Director  
Richmond Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jack Berry  
President & CEO  
Richmond Region Tourism

Chris Chapman  
President & CEO  
Ridgeland Tourism Commission

Hilary Lewkowitz  
Marketing Director  
Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce

Joe Ward  
President  
Rochester Minnesota CVB and Mayo Civic Center

John Groh  
President/CEO  
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Roger Hrabe  
Director  
Rooks County Economic Development

Julie Wearn  
CEO  
Roseville Visitors Association

Joe Terzi  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Tourism Authority

Joe D'Alessandro  
President and CEO  
San Francisco Travel Association

Deborah Hoskinson  
Executive Director  
San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

John Hutar  
President & CEO  
San Mateo County/Silicon Valley CVB

Denise Dever  
Executive Director  
Sandwich Chamber of Commerce

Glenn Morris  
President & CEO  
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

Misti Kerns  
President/CEO  
Santa Monica Travel and Tourism

Peach Morrison  
Executive Director  
SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission

Thomas A Murphy  
Owner  
Scenic City Signs

Katherine Kertzman  
President & CEO  
Seattle Southside Regional Tourism Authority

Jennifer Wesselhoff  
President/CEO  
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

Lea Filson  
Executive Director  
See Plymouth

Bill Chapin  
Chairman and CEO  
See Rock City, Inc.

Sheryl Smedley  
Executive Director  
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism  
Information

Linda Devlin  
Executive Director  
Seneca Highlands Association, DBA Allegheny National Forest  
Visitors Bureau

Angela Atchley  
Tourism Director  
Sevier County Tourism Department

Angela Whitcomb  
President/CEO  
Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau

Mary Childress  
Director  
Shaner Hotel Group

Rachael R. Ackley  
Executive Director  
Shelby County Tourism & Visitors Bureau

Donna Price  
Director  
Sherman County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Caitlin Holland  
President  
Shoals Chamber of Commerce

Stacy A. Brown  
President & CEO  
Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau

Bill Vander Weele  
Executive Director  
Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Convention Visitors Bureau

Teri Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau

Earl Magrath  
President  
Sir Goony Golf of Chattanooga Inc.

Angie Waiss  
Executive Director  
Skamania County Chamber of Commerce

Nathan Rafferty  
President & CEO Ski Utah

Jim Epperson  
Executive Director  
SolN Tourism (Clark-Floyd Counties, Indiana)

Johnny Smith  
CEO/President  
Songbirds

Claudia Vecchio  
President/CEO  
Sonoma County Tourism

Tim Zahner  
Executive Director  
Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau

Stratton Tingle  
Executive Director  
SoundCorps

Louise Bishop  
President  
South County Tourism Council

James D. Hagen  
Secretary  
South Dakota Department of Tourism

Speros A. Batistatos, FCDME  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
South Shore (IN) Convention & Visitors Authority



Monica Smith  
President & CEO  
Southeast Tourism Society

Lynda LeVan  
Executive Director  
Southern Lit Alliance

Sarah Bannon  
Executive Director  
Southwest Montana

Melissa Arnold  
Executive Director  
Spencer County Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Scott Dahl  
Director  
Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kathleen M Ratcliffe  
President  
St Louis Convention & Visitors Commission

Richard Goldman  
President & CEO  
St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors &  
Convention Bureau

Lora Brown  
Executive Director  
St. Ignace Visitors Bureau

Becky Davis  
Executive Director  
Statesboro Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kevin Costello  
President  
Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau

Blair McGary  
Executive Director  
Summit Chamber of Commerce

Pat Bernshausen  
Tourism Coordinator / DMO  
Surry County, Virginia

Andrew J. Miller  
Executive Director  
Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau

Larry S Parks Chairman,  
CEO  
T U Parks Construction Co.

Gena McPhail  
Director of Tourism Tahlequah Tourism

Karolyn Kirchgesler  
Chief Executive Officer  
Team San Jose

W Keith Sanford  
President and CEO  
Tennessee Aquarium

Jim Mejias  
Tourism & Media Relations  
The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

Angela Wilson  
President/CEO  
The Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Fritz Smith  
President & CEO  
The Happy Valley (PA) Adventure Bureau

Jules Downum  
Director  
The Pop-up Project

Brian McCartin  
President & CEO  
The Tempe Tourism Office

Rebecca Maffei  
Director  
Tioga County Tourism

Larisa Draves  
Administrator  
Tourism Industry Coalition of MI

Paulette Lombardi-Fries  
President  
Travel Costa Mesa

Kari Westlund  
President & CEO  
Travel Lane County

Susan Estler  
Executive Director  
Travel Marquette

Danna Stroud  
Executive Director  
Travel Paso

Jeff Miller  
President and CEO  
Travel Portland

Liz Bittner  
President & CEO  
Travel South USA

Dean Burke  
President & CEO  
Travel Tacoma - Mt. Rainier; Tourism & Sports

Trevor Tkach  
President / CEO  
Traverse City Tourism

Jessica Waldo  
Executive Director  
Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Laura Meadows  
Executive Director  
Upshur County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Roger Dow  
President and CEO  
U.S. Travel Association

Mike Bowman  
President  
Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board

Maryl Purvis  
Director  
Van Buren A&P Commission

Brian Tucker  
Executive Director  
Ventura County Lodging Association

John R. Crook  
Executive Director  
Vernon Parish Tourism Commission

Laura Beth Strickland  
Executive Director  
Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau

Shyla Beam  
Executive Director  
Vincennes/Knox County VTB

Rita McClenny  
CEO  
Virginia Tourism Corporation

Mitch Patel  
President & CEO  
Vision Hospitality Group, Inc.

Tania Armenta  
President & CEO Visit Albuquerque

Jay Burress  
CEO  
Visit Anaheim

Julie Saupe  
President & CEO  
Visit Anchorage

Pam Crain  
Director  
VISIT Ark City

Bruce Dalton  
President/CEO  
Visit Aurora, CO

Tom Noonan  
President/CEO  
Visit Austin

Al Hutchinson  
President and CEO  
Visit Baltimore

Susan M. Smith  
CEO  
Visit Bastrop

Paul Arrigo  
President/CEO  
Visit Baton Rouge

Brad M. Jones  
Executive Director  
Visit Bellevue WA

Kalene Griffith  
President  
Visit Bentonville and Bentonville Advertising and Promotion  
Commission

Barbara Hillman  
President & CEO  
Visit Berkeley

Michael Perry  
Interim CEO  
Visit Big Bear

Candace Carr Strauss  
CEO  
Visit Big Sky Alex Tyson  
Executive Director Visit Billings (Montana)

Judi Hess  
Director  
Visit Binghamton

Michael McAfee  
Executive Director  
Visit Bloomington

Katie Goenner  
President Visit  
Brainerd

Sara Copping  
Executive Director  
Visit Buena Park

Patrick Kaler  
President & CEO  
Visit Buffalo Niagara

David Peterson  
Executive Director  
Visit Carson City

Jayne DeLuce  
President & CEO  
Visit Champaign County

Amanda Wilkin  
Executive Director  
Visit Charlevoix

Josiah Jones  
Executive Director  
Visit Clearfield County

Samantha Kudrick  
Tourism Director  
Visit Coffeyville

Doug Price  
President & CEO  
Visit Colorado Springs

Peter F. Bowden  
President & CEO  
Visit Columbus GA

Nancy Luke Carpenter  
CEO  
Visit Columbus Mississippi

Elaine Schroth  
President & CEO  
Visit Concord CA

Christy Burns  
Executive Director  
Visit Corinth

Christina Rehlau  
Executive Director  
Visit Corvallis

Jonny Westom  
President  
Visit Dana Point

Stephen Byrne  
Executive Director  
Visit Delco, PA

Richard W. Scharf  
President & CEO  
VISIT DENVER

Aaron McCreight  
President & CEO  
Visit Dothan

Kevin Manley  
Executive Director  
Visit Dubois County

Anna Tanski  
President/CEO  
Visit Duluth

Theresa Blake Graven  
Tourism & Communications Director  
Visit Durango Colorado

Jennifer Seaton  
Director  
Visit Edmond

James T. Wood  
President & CEO  
Visit Evansville

Barry H. Biggar, CDME  
President/CEO  
Visit Fairfax

Stephanie Busiahn  
Executive Director  
Visit Fairmont, Minnesota

Joe Gagliardi  
CEO/President  
Visit Folsom

Cynthia Eichler  
President and CEO  
Visit Fort Collins

Robert L. Jameson  
President and CEO  
Visit Fort Worth

Ellie Westman Chin  
President & CEO  
Visit Franklin, TN

John Fieseler  
Executive Director  
Visit Frederick

Kristal Painter  
Executive Director  
Visit French Lick West Baden

Jane Howard  
Executive Director  
Visit Gilroy

Elizabeth Fogarty  
Director  
Visit Grand Junction

Lisa Langer  
Director of Tourism Promotion  
Visit Glenwood Springs

Andrew Schmidt  
President and CEO  
Visit Greenville NC

Jennifer Stilwell  
Executive Vice President  
Visit Greenville SC

Brenda Myers  
President / CEO  
Visit Hamilton County

Marlo Dorsey  
Executive Director  
Visit Hattiesburg

Mary Smith  
President & CEO  
Visit Hershey & Harrisburg

Ashley Huckaby May  
Director  
Visit Hood River

Amanda Hof  
Executive Director  
Visit Howard County, Maryland

Kelly Miller  
President & CEO  
Visit Huntington Beach

Beth Javens  
Executive Director  
Visit Issaquah

Rickey L. Thigpen  
President & CEO  
Visit Jackson

Lisa M. Rager  
Executive Director  
Visit Johnstown (PA)

Jason Fulvi  
President & CEO  
Visit KC

Jo Wade  
President/CEO  
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette

Ashley Johnson, CDME  
President & CEO  
Visit Laguna Beach

Kyle Edmiston  
President/CEO  
Visit Lake Charles

Maureen Riedy President  
Visit Lake County

Janet Falotico  
Executive Director  
Visit Lawrence County

Justin Gifford  
Executive Director  
Visit Lenawee

Michelle Peters  
President/CEO  
Visit Lewis Clark Valley

Nancy Rezac  
Executive Director  
Visit Longmont

Theodore B. Wampole, Jr  
Executive Director  
Visit Luzerne County

Gary Wheat  
President/CEO  
Visit Macon, Inc.

Tawana Thomas  
Executive Director  
Visit Madison

Cassi Weiss  
Director  
Visit Marshall

Jaki Berggren  
Executive Director  
Visit McHenry County

Jamie Null  
Director  
Visit Mercer County CVB

Peggy Mazyck  
President/CEO  
Visit Mercer County PA

Marc J. Garcia  
President and CEO  
Visit Mesa

Peggy Williams-Smith  
President and CEO  
VISIT Milwaukee

David Clark  
President & CEO  
Visit Mobile

Heather Shirk  
Executive Director  
Visit Montgomery County Indiana

Kelly Groff, CDME  
President & CEO  
Visit Montgomery MD

Krista Rupp  
Executive Director  
Visit Morgan Hill

Robert M. Lukens  
Director  
Visit Muskegon

Linsey Gallagher  
President & CEO  
Visit Napa Valley

Gary Sherwin  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Visit Newport Beach

Wit Tuttell  
Director  
Visit North Carolina

Eric C. Wagner  
President & CEO  
Visit Oak Park

Mark Everton  
CEO  
Visit Oakland

Leslee Gaul  
CEO  
Visit Oceanside

Sara Toliver  
President & CEO  
Visit Ogden

Keith Backsen  
Executive Director  
Visit Omaha

George Aguel  
President & CEO  
Visit Orlando

Jeanne Goldschmidt  
Executive Director  
Visit Pasadena

Darien Schaefer  
President & CEO  
Visit Pensacola

Jeff Guaracino  
President & CEO  
VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Steve Moore  
President/CEO  
Visit Phoenix

Kari Mobley  
Executive Director  
Visit Posey County, Inc.

Colleen Hanson  
Executive Director  
Visit Potter-Tioga

Dave Herrell  
President and CEO  
Visit Quad Cities

Don Jeffries  
President & CEO  
Visit Rochester

J. R. Shaw  
Executive Director  
Visit Rogers

Andy Williams  
Executive Director  
Visit Roswell, Georgia

Mike Testa  
Chief Executive Officer  
Visit Sacramento

Terry Mattson  
President & CEO  
Visit Saint Paul

Casandra Matej  
President & CEO  
Visit San Antonio

Kathy Janega-Dykes  
President & CEO  
Visit Santa Barbara

Margaret Ivy  
CEO  
Visit Santa Cruz County

Misti Kerns  
President & CEO  
Visit Santa Monica

Brad Calkins  
Executive Director  
Visit Santa Rosa

Shelby Sim  
President / CEO  
Visit Santa Ynez Valley

Virginia J. Haley  
President  
Visit Sarasota County

Joseph Marinelli  
President  
Visit Savannah

Tom Norwalk  
President & CEO  
Visit Seattle

Chuck Davison  
President & CEO  
Visit SLO CAL

Rob DeCleene  
Executive Director  
Visit South Bend Mishawaka

Brenda Maas  
Executive Marketing Director  
Visit Southeast Montana

Lisa Strader  
Executive Director  
Visit Southern WV

Meg Winchester  
President & CEO  
Visit Spokane

Steve Hayes  
President & CEO  
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater

Cristy Morrison  
President & CEO  
Visit Stillwater

Wes Rhea  
CEO  
Visit Stockton

Danny Liedka  
President & CEO  
Visit Syracuse

Santiago C. Corrada  
President/CEO  
Visit Tampa Bay

Kimberly Adams  
President & CEO  
Visit Temecula Valley

Nick Wolda  
President  
Visit The Woodlands

Michael Novakovich  
President & CEO  
Visit Tri-Cities

Tracy Farhad  
President & CEO  
Visit Tri-Valley

Brent DeRaad  
President & CEO  
Visit Tucson

Michael Browne  
President & CEO  
Visit Vallejo CA

Cliff Myers  
President & CEO  
Visit Vancouver USA

Marlyss Auster  
President/CEO  
Visit Ventura

Landon C. Howard  
President  
Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge

Christine Flohr  
Executive Director  
Visit Wabash County

Daylan Gibbard  
Director  
Visit Walla Walla

Tom Kiely  
President & CEO  
Visit West Hollywood

Susie Santo  
President and CEO  
Visit Wichita

Vicki Cimino  
Chief Executive Officer  
Visit Williamsburg

Pat Mutter  
Executive Director  
Visit Winona Rhonda Salisbury  
CEO  
Visit Yosemite | Madera County

John Oliver  
President/CEO  
VisitErie

Mary Quinn Ramer  
President  
VisitLEX

David Blandford and Shiloh Burgess  
Co-Chairs  
Washington Tourism Alliance

Phillip S. Smith  
President & CEO  
Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Wright Tilley  
Executive Director  
Watauga County Tourism Development Authority

Christine Worth  
Director  
Wayne County Tourism

Valerie Earl  
Executive Director  
Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB

Summer Rose  
Operations Coordinator  
West Columbia Gorge Chamber & Visitor Center

Georgia Turner  
Executive Director  
West Volusia Tourism

Charyl Reardon  
President  
White Mountains Recreation Association

Dylan Boyle  
Executive Director  
Whitefish Convention and Visitors Bureau (Explore Whitefish)

Beth Fischer  
Executive Director  
Willmar Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sarah Werner  
CEO  
Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce/Winfield Convention and Tourism

John Cooper  
President & CEO  
Yakima Valley Tourism

Mary Vilbon  
Executive Director  
Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce

Jessica L. Bacher  
President and CEO  
Yates County Chamber of Commerce

Robin Hoover  
Executive Director  
Yellowstone Country Montana, Inc.

Jonathan Farrington  
Executive Director/CEO  
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

Linda Morgan  
Executive Director  
Yuma Visitors Bureau

**Identical Letter Sent to:**

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
The Honorable Ben Cardin  
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
The Honorable Steve Chabot