Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 18, 2021

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to respectfully urge you to support and advocate for the swift replenishment of the Small Business Administration's Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) in any moving legislative vehicle Congress considers this year.

Nearly $28.6 billion of economic relief was provided to more than 101,000 restaurants in every community across the country in the American Rescue Plan Act (Pub. L. 117-2). Critically, the Small Business Administration (SBA) prioritized small and medium-sized businesses, with more than half of the RRF grants totaling fewer than $150,000. These grants kept businesses open, people employed, and families stable.

Despite the program's success for many, more than 177,000 food and beverage establishments applied for nearly $44 billion in funding but received nothing. This disparity has resulted in small businesses next door to each other with drastically different financial situations solely because of the federal government's inability to fully fund the RRF.

These entities are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the survival of these small businesses on the line every day. In August, employment in food and beverage establishments fell by 41,500. In September, employment was stagnant. Restaurant and bar employment is still down 930,500 jobs since the start of the pandemic and more than 90,000 restaurants and bars have closed. These months were the first downturn for the industry in eight months and will only get worse as the weather gets colder and outdoor dining becomes impossible in much of the country. Restaurants are still down nearly one million jobs or about 8% below pre-pandemic levels, which is double national employment levels, and roughly one-third of the country is under some form of a dining restriction. Simply put, thousands of restaurants and bars will not survive the winter unless we replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Legislation in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3807) to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund with $60 billion has attracted the cosponsorship of more than half the House. Companion legislation in the Senate (S. 2675) is also widely supported.

We have the opportunity to ensure these small businesses get the relief they need by replenishing this program to meet the current need. We need your support and leadership to finish the job in any moving legislative vehicle. We look forward to partnering with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Jamaal Bowman
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Julia Brownley
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G. K. Butterfield
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Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
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Jim Cooper
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J. Luis Correa
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Jim Costa
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Joe Courtney
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Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
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Sharice L. Davids
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Danny K. Davis
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Madeleine Dean
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Suzan K. DelBene
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Antonio Delgado
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Val Butler Demings
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Ted Deutch
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Debbie Dingell
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Lloyd Doggett
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Mike Doyle
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Veronica Escobar
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Ruben Gallego
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Jenniffer González-Colón
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Josh Gottheimer
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
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Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
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Daniel T. Kildee
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Derek Kilmer
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Conor Lamb
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James R. Langevin
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Rick Larsen
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John B. Larson
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Barbara Lee
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Betty McCollum
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A. Donald McEachin
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James P. McGovern
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Jerry McNerney
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Seth Moulton
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Frank J. Mrvan
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Joe Neguse
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Marie Newman
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Donald Norcross
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Tom O'Halleran
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Jimmy Panetta
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Ed Perlmutter
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Scott H. Peters
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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David E. Price
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Jamie Raskin
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Nikema Williams
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Frederica S. Wilson
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John Yarmuth
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