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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

October 19, 2020

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERAN AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Thank you for your leadership during this time of crisis. As negotiations continue on the next coronavirus relief package, I urge you to include support for the motorcoaches, an industry that has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The motorcoach industry generates roughly \$15.3 billion per year in annual revenue and employs around 98,500 workers. The American Bus Association (ABA) projects that the industry could lose as much as \$11-\$12 billion due to COVID-19, and that 40-50% of the industry could go bankrupt, if they do not receive federal assistance. The motorcoach industry plays a vital and diverse role across numerous industries from bringing tourists to National Parks or Washington, DC, to providing transportation for rural and underserved communities. But they also provide transportation for our military and critical emergency services to deploy first responders and evacuate citizens during wildfires, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods and other natural disasters.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provided some relief to motorcoach operators at the start of the pandemic. But unfortunately, the PPP has proven largely insufficient and unworkable for the motorcoach industry, just as it has been for small restaurants or live venues, due to the nature of their business. As Americans continue to restrict their travel or find other means of transportation for trips, the motorcoach industry remains unable to get back to operating at full capacity. For those in this industry who secured PPP loans, many have been forced to once again furlough their workforce as the money has dried up and business remains low.

For these reasons, I urge you to include **H.R. 7642 the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act** in the next COVID relief package. This bill would provide \$10 billion in emergency relief funding, in the form of grants and other economic assistance, through the U.S. Department of Treasury to certain providers of transportation services, including the motorcoach industry, that have experienced a significant revenue loss as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19. This would give them much needed assistance to continue operating while following public health guidance and to retain employees on their payroll. The **CERTS Act** has an overwhelming amount of bipartisan support with 251 cosponsors and counting in the House.

It is critical Congress continues to take steps to help those who were left behind in our previous relief packages and who are in urgent need of assistance in order to survive. I look forward to working closely with you in the days and weeks ahead to ensure we protect our motorcoach industry during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress