

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

America faces its most difficult phase in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID-19 case numbers are spiking across the nation, with more than one in 400 Americans testing positive in the last week alone. This unprecedented increase has prompted a wave of new restrictions ranging from nighttime closures and restrictions on indoor dining in New York, North Dakota, and Maryland to takeout-only in Oregon and stay-at-home orders in New Mexico. For the second time this year, restaurants and bars are having to limit operations or close their doors completely, raising concerns about their ability to survive the long winter ahead. They need quick relief to keep their workers employed and hold onto their businesses. Congress needs to act speedily and pass the RESTAURANTS Act to help save local restaurants across the country and the millions of workers they employ.

The restaurant industry has been uniquely devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly one in four jobs lost from the pandemic were those of restaurant and bar workers. The food and beverage industry is still down 2.3 million jobs since the pandemic began, a number that is sure to rise with increasing infection rates and new restrictions. Despite bearing the brunt of this economic crisis, independent restaurants have received no directly tailored federal aid. Many independent restaurant owners did not benefit from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) because the program did not match their business model or needs.

The restaurant sector is the second-largest private employer after health care, and for countless Americans they provide the first opportunity for a job. These businesses are the beating heart of communities across America, but the pandemic puts their survival in jeopardy. This threat affects restaurants and their employees and every other link in the \$1 trillion restaurant supply chain. The food supply chain touches every corner of the country and supports tens of millions

of livelihoods, including farm workers, fishermen, and truck drivers. A new round of restaurant closures is likely to have dire effects on the entire food supply chain.

The RESTAURANTS Act would create a restaurant revitalization fund that can be used for a wide range of expenses, including payroll and benefits, food, utilities, rent, maintenance, and supplies. This legislation has gained bipartisan support in Congress, as well as backing from restaurateurs and a large coalition of industries that rely on restaurants. It passed the House of Representatives on October 1, 2020, in H.R. 925 (Section 607, Division O). A June 2020 study on the legislation found it would generate at least \$183 billion in primary benefits and \$65 billion in secondary benefits – more than double the amount of the fund itself. This type of economic multiplier is needed now more than ever.

We urge you to pass the RESTAURANTS Act quickly as part of a COVID-19 relief bill or a year-end spending bill. We look forward to partnering with you to save local restaurants across America.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

/s/
Dick Durbin
United States Senator

_____/s/
John Cornyn
United States Senator

_____/s/
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

_____/s/
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

_____/s/
Thom Tillis
United States Senator

_____/s/
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

_____/s/
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

_____/s/
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

_____/s/
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

_____/s/
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

_____/s/
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

_____/s/
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

_____/s/
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

_____/s/
Ed Markey
United States Senator

_____/s/
Bob Menendez
United States Senator

_____/s/
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

_____/s/
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

_____/s/
Jackie Rosen
United States Senator

_____/s/
Tina Smith
United States Senator

_____/s/
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

_____/s/
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

_____/s/
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

_____/s/
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Don Beyer
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

_____/s/
André Carson
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ed Case
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

_____/s/
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

_____/s/
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

_____/s/
TJ Cox
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Denny Heck
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jim Himes
Member of Congress

_____/s/
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Andy Kim
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ron Kind
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Peter King
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

_____/s/
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Al Lawson
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Andy Levin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

_____/s/
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Scott Peters
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Max Rose
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

_____/s/
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

_____/s/
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

_____/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

_____/s/
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Al Green
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Josh Harder
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Mike Sherrill
Member of Congress

/s/

Karen Bass
Member of Congress