

# Congress of the United States

## U.S. House of Representatives

April 24, 2020

Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin  
Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Chair Jerome Powell  
The Federal Reserve  
2001 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Chair Powell:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Treasury Department and Federal Reserve provide at least \$5 billion in loans to over-the-road bus carriers under the Economic Stabilization and Assistance to Severely Distressed Sectors of the U.S. Economy program of the recently enacted CARES Act.

The motorcoach industry is not only an important part of the nation's transportation network, it is also an important part of the economy, providing over 88,000 good-paying full-time equivalent jobs. In fact in 2018, the industry generated almost \$15.35 billion in revenue.

However, today the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the motorcoach industry. Based on reports from motorcoach companies, between 80 and 95 percent of motorcoach trips have been cancelled or are simply not being booked due to the pandemic, and scheduled service operations are down 80-90%. Nationwide, over 3,000 companies are affected, most of the 36,000 motorcoach fleet is sitting idle, and thousands of workers in this industry are out of work. In Springfield, Massachusetts, Peter Pan Bus Lines has shut down service through May 15. In the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Oregon, seven bus companies are effectively shuttered during the crisis.

While the short term impacts are staggering, in the longer term if bus companies go out of business, hundreds of thousands of travelers who rely on buses to get to their jobs and reach vital services, intermodal connections and educational facilities, especially in rural America, risk losing what may be their only means of transportation. This is especially true for low-income travelers and those without cars. It also means our national emergency response capabilities are at risk, as motorcoaches provide key evacuation services during times of weather – and security–related events. Our military also relies on motorcoach services to move troops and equipment around the country and to departure points for deployment.

The Economic Stabilization and Assistance to Severely Distressed Sectors of the U.S. Economy program allocates \$454 billion to help struggling companies just like those in the motorcoach

industry. Therefore, as you consider companies for eligibility under this program, we ask that you direct at least \$5 billion in loans to over-the-road bus carriers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means



Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure