

Craig A. Kirby

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August 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker United States House of Representatives 1236 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader United States House of Representatives 2468 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader United States Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader United States Senate 322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

## **RE: Support the inclusion of the RESTART Act in the next COVID-19 Package**

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

On behalf of the RV Industry Association (RVIA), I urge you to include additional provisions of the RESTART Act in any COVID-19 aid package under consideration. While the RV industry is currently seeing a promising recovery, the future effects of the pandemic remain uncertain and continued access to relief is critical to ensure that this American-made industry, along with many others, continues to recover.

The RV Industry Association is the national trade association representing over 400 of the diverse manufacturing businesses which together build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the United States—including motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth-wheel travel trailers, folding camping trailers, park model RVs, and truck campers. The RV industry supports 600,000 jobs nationwide and contributes \$114 billion annually to the United States economy.

Despite promising signs from manufacturers and dealers, there remain many significant challenges for the RV industry. Association tradeshows, a critical funding source, as well as other consumer RV shows that introduce consumers to the RV lifestyle each year have been cancelled. Moreover, many small businesses in rural communities nationwide remain closed or are operating at reduced capacity. Those local businesses that support rural gateway communities and national parks and campgrounds are critical to a strong RV industry. Without continued, expanded access to relief, these critical businesses and organizations that support the RV industry may not survive another wave of lockdowns.

The RV Industry Association is grateful Congress is supporting many American-made RV businesses and related businesses that together provide consumers with incredible RV experiences. Recent proposals, however, do not go far enough to expand relief for these businesses. The RESTART Act expands upon the Paycheck Protection Program in several important ways: it expands eligibility to more businesses and nonprofits by raising the full-time employee cap, supports including more nonprofits, allows for partial forgiveness, and uses a

looser revenue test than the 50% included in the HEALS Act—among many other important provisions.

While we are encouraged to see that proposed packages seek to ensure that more of the hardest-hit businesses have continuing access to relief, additional measures from the RESTART Act must be included to truly assist the hardest-hit small- and mid-sized businesses that have fallen through the gaps of previous relief programs. We look forward to working with you to support small businesses, serve our communities, and help America recover.

Best,

Craig A. Kirby

President & CEO