

TOM RICE
7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
512 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-9895
FAX: (202) 225-9890



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

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MEASURES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

March 21, 2020

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-211, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Thank you for your work on Phase Three of Congress's response to the current coronavirus crisis. I am writing in concern of the dire state of America's tourism sector due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19. In my home state of South Carolina over \$23 billion a year are generated by tourism. One in every ten jobs is connected to the tourist industry. Over 28 million people visit the state every year, generating \$1.8 billion for the state and local governments. '

My district contains the Grand Strand and Pee Dee where the tourism industry has an economic impact of over \$7 billion. Over 80,000 jobs in my district are tied to tourism. My district is home to almost 500 hotels and over 1,800 restaurants. These businesses and the workers they employ face an existential threat from the lockdowns necessitated by the spread of COVID-19. Unlike other industries, they have been ordered to close their doors by the government.

As you consider federal assistance for sectors of the economy affected by the coronavirus crisis, I ask that you provide assistance of no less than \$100 billion for the tourist and travel sectors of the economy. These businesses, which employ millions nationwide, face imminent collapse unless they receive expeditious relief.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Rice
Member of Congress