



September 29, 2009

Dear Representative:

The United States is on the cusp of creating 40,000 new jobs, driving \$4 billion in economic stimulus, generating \$321 million in new tax revenue and reducing the federal budget deficit by more than \$425 million – and you can help make it happen with one vote.

The Travel Promotion Act passed the U.S. Senate on September 9 with a strong bipartisan vote of 79 to 19. We strongly encourage you to build on the work of the Senate by quickly passing the Travel Promotion Act and sending it to President Obama. Every day the U.S. waits to launch a comprehensive international travel promotion program is one more day that America's customers are spending their hard-earned dollars in other economies.

The Travel Promotion Act would establish a nationally coordinated program funded by the private sector and foreign travelers to attract millions of additional visitors to the United States by promoting America as a premier travel destination and better communicating our travel policies.

Although there are 56 million more global travelers today than in 2000, the United States continues to welcome fewer overseas visitors than we did prior to September 11, 2001. In fact, the U.S. Commerce Department just announced that international visitor spending was down 24 percent this July compared to July 2008 – the ninth month of consecutive declines in travel and tourism-related exports. A major reason for this decline is that foreign countries are capturing America's visitors through effective travel promotion programs and regular criticism of America's travel policies.

The House of Representatives unanimously passed the Travel Promotion Act (H.R. 3232) in the 110th Congress, but the Congressional session ended before the Senate could act on the bill. We urge you to pass the Travel Promotion Act once and for all and give the American economy the victory it deserves.

Sincerely,

U.S. Travel Association

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Associations from Across the Travel Industry

Air Carrier Association of America	International Council of Shopping Centers
Air Transport Association	International Franchise Association
American Bus Association	Meeting Professionals International
American Gaming Association	National Association of Sports Commissions
American Hotel & Lodging Association	National Park Hospitality Association
American Recreation Coalition	National Restaurant Association
American Resort Development Association	National Tour Association
American Society of Association Executives	National Tourism and Heritage Association
Asian American Hotel Owners Association	Professional Convention Management Association
Association of Destination Management Executives	Professional Association of Innkeepers International
Choice Hotels Owners Council	Shop America Alliance LLC
Destination Marketing Association International	Site (Society of Incentive and Travel Executives)
Econo Lodge of America Franchisee Association Inc.	Society of Independent Show Organizers
Hotel Electronic Distribution Network Association	Student & Youth Travel Association
Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International	Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions	Travel Goods Association
International Association of Exhibitions and Events	United Motorcoach Association
	U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Marketing Council

State and Local Leaders from Across the Country

Alaska CHARR	New Jersey Restaurant Association
Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Bureau	New Orleans Convention and Visitor Bureau
Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau	North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association
California Travel Industry Association (CalTIA)	NYC & Company
Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau	Oklahoma Hospitality Foundation
Chicago Hospitality Backs the Bid	Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association
Colorado Restaurant Association	Oklahoma Restaurant Association
Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau	Oklahoma Travel Industry Association
Destination Bloomington	Oregon Restaurant Association
Destination DC, Washington, DC	Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau	Palm Springs Desert Resorts CVA
Georgia Restaurant Association	Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau	Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau	Rhode Island Hospitality Association
Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau	San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau	San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Nashville Hospitality Association	San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau	Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
Indiana Hotel & Lodging Association	South Carolina Hospitality Association
Indiana Restaurant Association	Tampa Bay and Company
Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association	Tennessee Hospitality Association
Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau - Irving, Texas	Texas Restaurant Association
LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau	Texas Travel Industry Association
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority	Travel Portland
Louisiana Restaurant Association	United States Conference of Mayors
Louisiana Travel Promotion Association	Utah Restaurant Association
Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau	Utah Tourism Industry Coalition
Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau	Vermont Chamber Hospitality Council
Minnesota Lodging Association	Virginia Beach Convention and Visitor Bureau
Minnesota Resort and Campground Association	VISIT DENVER The Convention & Visitors Bureau
Minnesota Restaurant Association	Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater
Myrtle Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce Tourism Authority
Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau	Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association
National Council of State Tourism Directors	Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Nevada Restaurant Association	

Businesses Driving the American Economy

ACCENT on Arrangements-DMC
ACCESS Destination Services
Across Arizona Tours LLC
Advantage Destination & Meeting Services, Inc.
Affinity Group Tours
American Express Company
Arizona Golf Resort & Conference Center
Arizona Grand Resort
Augusta Group
Blue Sky Destinations
Busch Entertainment Corporation
Camelback Adventures
Canto Event Management
Canyon View Realty
Carlson
Choice Hotels International
CityPass, Inc.
CMAC, LLC (The Convention and Meetings Assistance Corporation)
Delaware North Companies
Destination Nashville
Fairmont Raffles Hotels International
Gaylord Entertainment
Glacier Park, Inc.
Global Conference Associates
Gold Stars Speakers Bureau
Hilton Worldwide
In the Loop-Chicago, Inc.
International Sales and Network Management LLC
KCA - Public Relations, Meeting Planning & Association Management
Loews Hotels
Maritz Travel Company
Marriott International, Inc.
Merestone
MGM MIRAGE
Plan Ahead Events of Phoenix Metro
PRA Destination Management Atlanta
PRA Destination Management San Francisco
Sky Mountain Limousines
Southwest Regional Meeting Connections
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
Stratum
Tauck World Discovery
TransInc Ltd
Ultimate Ventures
Universal Orlando
Video West, Inc.
Walnut Hill Media
Walt Disney Parks and Resorts
Yes2Meetings, a division of MeCo (Meetings Community)