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Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 1:57 PM

To: jared.karbowsky@mail.house.gov; ryan.ehly@mail.house.gov; michael.maitland@mail.house.gov

Subject: DeCamp Bus Lines- Support for HR7642

To Representative Norcross,

DeCamp Bus Lines has been serving the public as a regulated public utility in Essex County, New Jersey, for 150 years, this year. We are proud to be a family-owned and operated business, now with the fifth and sixth generation of the DeCamp family working every day at our company. DeCamp Bus Lines employs approximately 160 people from throughout the New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania region. Under normal conditions, we provide transportation between New Jersey and New York City to approximately 7,000 passengers each weekday and additionally transport 2,000 passengers on Saturday and Sunday. We operate a fleet of fifty motorcoaches that are dedicated to our regular commuter route service. We also operate an additional sixteen motorcoaches that provide approximately 5,000 trips per year for the United States Military, schools, universities, companies, churches, synagogues, mosques, senior citizens organizations, and many others to reach their destinations economically and in a way that is helpful to our environment. We regularly provide service to New Jersey Transit passengers when there are problems or issues on the New Jersey Transit Rail lines or when NJ Transit Bus service is disrupted, as well as assisting with the transportation of people during natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. We have taken part in assisting with transportation during major events in the region, such as the recent Super Bowl and assisting with transportation for the annual New York City Marathon, which reduces congestion and traffic on the heavily traveled roads and highways in the New York City region.

On March 24, 2020, DeCamp Bus Lines, after attempting to reduce service but continue to operate for our passengers, many of which are essential workers, was forced to suspend all service and lay off all but three employees, which were necessary for the continued operation of the business, including the assistance to our colleagues and friends who had to process unemployment claims. DeCamp was optimistic in early June, as New York and New Jersey began a staged re-opening, and began limited service again on June 8th. Unfortunately, the optimism was premature, as after a slow build from 50-60 riders per day, ridership remained at less than 5% of normal, which was unsustainable. With the PPP funds we received running extremely low, we were forced to suspend service again on August 7th. Our company is now shut down, and the future has become a very large question mark, with no apparent signs of when businesses and offices will reopen in our area at a level that will allow us to try to resume some level of service again. Time, however, is something we just do not have, since there are still bills that must be paid, such as real estate taxes and the payment of equipment financing. Until this month, we continued to provide health insurance to our employees at a tremendous expense. Motorcoaches that were purchased over the past two years require an investment of over \$500,000 each, which requires outside financing, and insurance in the motorcoach industry can easily represent 10% of total revenue alone, and that too must continue to be paid.

We appeal to you, Representative Norcross, for your help and support of HR7642: DeCamp Bus Lines has survived World War One, The Great Depression, World War Two, Oil Embargoes of the 1970s, economic downturns and market crashes, the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009, but the Coronavirus Pandemic may very well be the hurdle that can't be overcome, without some assistance.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. DeCamp

Vice President

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