

From: Troy Flanagan
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:43 AM
Subject: Hotels are Essential to Communities

Dear Mayor,

On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association and the more than 8.3 million associates supporting the hotel industry, thank you for your leadership in addressing the impacts of the coronavirus COVID-19.

We are hearing from hoteliers in your state that the impact to date on their workforce and business is unprecedented. Since the public health issue began escalating in mid-February, the human toll has been devastating with major hotel managers already reporting layoffs and furloughs of up to 90 percent of their staff. We estimate one million direct hotel jobs and nearly 3.9 million indirect jobs have either been eliminated or will be eliminated in the coming weeks. U.S. hotels have already lost \$2.4 billion alone in room revenue and localities have lost more than \$160 million in lodging tax revenue.

We understand you are doing everything possible to support the nation's state and local leaders in this important time. We respectfully urge you to help coordinate state and local policies that take into account the important role of hotel and lodging facilities and ensure these essential businesses remain available to support the work of other crucial businesses.

Congress is currently considering a package of relief provisions that will protect the jobs of millions of Americans and help tens of thousands of small businesses stay afloat. We urge you to help protect the livelihoods of hotel employees and small businesses in your state by contacting your Members of Congress in support of hotel jobs. To learn more about the impact of coronavirus on the hotel industry [click here](#).

As the nation's leaders consider emergency measures to protect the American people from the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, our association asks state and local governments recognize essential nature of hotels during this crisis and that they must be allowed to remain open. Hotels are important in providing lodging to the general public as well as other essential personnel (doctors, nurses, healthcare provider, grocers etc.) during this pandemic. Hotels are also stepping up to work with state and local governments to provide shelter at this critical time. In every state there are thousands of people currently staying in hotels who would be on the streets, many with no ability to go elsewhere, if hotels were forced to close. Many hotel guests are long term guests who effectively would be put out of their homes.

To ensure the safety of America's traveling public and the wellbeing of our guests and associates, AHLA has prepared various resources including our [Coronavirus Readiness Toolkit](#), which includes guidance to hoteliers on coordinating with state and local health officials, ensuring flexible sick leave policies and stressing workplace hygiene and prevention cleaning measures.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions – tflanagan@ahla.com and my cell is (202) 285-4371.

Sincerely,

Troy Flanagan
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