



**Passenger Vessel  
Association**

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March 13, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As part of America's travel and transportation sector, operators of U.S.-flagged passenger vessels are suffering economic hardship and experiencing steep declines in reservations and ridership because of the coronavirus outbreak. As tax-paying U.S. companies, employing thousands of U.S. citizens, we urge you to remember the important role that the domestic passenger vessel industry plays in travel, tourism, and transportation by including our industry in your economic relief plans.

The Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) is the national trade association representing owners and operators of U.S.-flagged passenger vessels of all types. PVA's membership includes about 600 companies with approximately 1,600 U.S.-flagged vessels regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard. A large portion of PVA's membership consists of private businesses, most of which are small businesses. Many of our members are family-owned operations or are seasonal. As discretionary travel plummets, PVA members are seeing their customer base diminish. As you can imagine, weeks of reduced or no revenue will jeopardize their ability to meet debt obligations and to pay employees.

The U.S. passenger vessel industry has "small ship" overnight cruise companies on our inland rivers, in southeast Alaska, and along our coasts and in the Great Lakes. These operators, which are U.S.-flagged and U.S.-crewed, have passenger capacities from 20 to several hundred, which is in sharp contrast to the large oceangoing cruise ships. We urge you to

ensure that any restrictive measures aimed at large cruise ships do not apply to these American companies.

Economic damage is being inflicted on PVA vessel members in every region of the nation. Alaska, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are particularly hard hit because of declining commercial air travel.

U.S. ferry routes are an integral part of America's transportation network. They provide commuter service in urban areas and serve as extensions of state highway systems in other locations.

Mr. President, the small passenger vessel industry is an important player in our nation's travel, tourism and transportation markets. We need your help immediately, and we urge you include our operators in your plans to provide economic assistance to U.S. businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen Stephens  
PVA President, 2020