

SIGN-ON LETTER: Support replenishing the Restaurant Revitalization Fund

Sending Office: Honorable Earl Blumenauer

To sign on, please fill out this FORM

Current signers (48): Bonamici, Carson, Case, Cohen, Cooper, Correa, Craig, Danny K. Davis, DelBene, Demings, Dingell, Eshoo, Gallego, Higgins, Kind, Kirkpatrick, Langevin, Lawrence, Lee (CA), Levin (MI), Carolyn Maloney, McBath, McGovern, Newman, Norton, Pallone, Panetta, Pressley, Price, Quigley, Rice (NY), Ross, Ruppersberger, Ryan, San Nicolas, Scanlon, Sewell, Sherrill, Slotkin, Strickland, Suozzi, Swalwell, Takano, Thompson (CA), Titus, *Van Drew*, Welch, Wild.

Supporters: Independent Restaurant Coalition, National Restaurant Association, Brewer's Association, Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, GrubHub, WineAmerica, and the Wine Institute.

Dear Colleague,

Please join me in **urging President Biden to support and advocate for the swift replenishment of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund in any moving legislative vehicle Congress considers this year.**

Nearly \$28.6 billion of economic relief was provided to more than 101,000 restaurants in every community across the country in the American Rescue Plan Act (Pub. L. 117-2). Despite the program's success for many, more than 177,000 food and beverage establishments applied for nearly \$44 billion in funding but received nothing. This disparity has resulted in small businesses next door to each other with drastically different financial situations solely because of the federal government's inability to fully fund the RRF.

These entities are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the survival of these small businesses on the line every day. In August, employment in food and beverage establishments fell by 41,500. In September, employment was stagnant. Restaurant and bar employment is still down 930,500 jobs since the start of the pandemic and more than 90,000 restaurants and bars have closed.

We have the opportunity to ensure these small businesses get the relief they need by replenishing this program to meet the current need.

To sign on, please fill out this FORM. **The deadline to sign on is Friday, November 12.**

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer

Member of Congress

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to respectfully urge you to support and advocate for the swift replenishment of the Small Business Administration's Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) in any moving legislative vehicle Congress considers this year.

Nearly \$28.6 billion of economic relief was provided to more than 101,000 restaurants in every community across the country in the American Rescue Plan Act (Pub. L. 117-2). Critically, the Small Business Administration (SBA) prioritized small and medium-sized businesses, with more than half of the RRF grants totaling fewer than \$150,000. These grants kept businesses open, people employed, and families stable.

Despite the program's success for many, more than 177,000 food and beverage establishments applied for nearly \$44 billion in funding but received nothing. This disparity has resulted in small businesses next door to each other with drastically different financial situations solely because of the federal government's inability to fully fund the RRF.

These entities are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the survival of these small businesses on the line every day. In August, employment in food and beverage establishments fell by 41,500. In September, employment was stagnant. Restaurant and bar employment is still down 930,500 jobs since the start of the pandemic and more than 90,000 restaurants and bars have closed. These months were the first downturn for the industry in eight months and will only get worse as the weather gets colder and outdoor dining becomes impossible in much of the country. Restaurants are still down nearly one million jobs or about 8% below pre-pandemic levels, which is double national employment levels, and roughly one-third of the country is under some form of a dining restriction. Simply put, thousands of restaurants and bars will not survive the winter unless we replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Legislation in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3807) to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund with \$60 billion has attracted the cosponsorship of more than half the House. Companion legislation in the Senate (S. 2675) is also widely supported.

We have the opportunity to ensure these small businesses get the relief they need by replenishing this program to meet the current need. We need your support and leadership to finish the job in any moving legislative vehicle. We look forward to partnering with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,