



April 15, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of New York's private bus companies as well as our affiliate members, I am writing to request your assistance in resolving a grave oversight. Founded in 1938, the Bus Association of New York State (BANY) represents the broader interests of private motorcoach companies, their vendors as well as travel and tourism entities. A significant portion of our membership is made up of small and often family-owned businesses. These businesses are the backbones of their local communities providing jobs as well as critical transportation to schools, universities and commuting employees. Our combined membership is responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of millions of New Yorkers annually.

All the federal economic packages enacted to provide relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic include specific funding provisions for airline operations, airports, Amtrak and transit operations. However, the U.S. motorcoach industry, which connects with each one of these operations as part of the larger national transportation network, did not receive like assistance. The motorcoach industry provides nearly 600 million passengers trips annually, serving public transportation needs and generating economic benefits for New York. If the motorcoach industry does not receive immediate financial assistance to bridge this crisis, the overall national transportation network will be permanently degraded, and New York will be effected.

BANY sincerely appreciates your continued leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and urges you to please speak with the NY Congressional Delegation and request their assistance to address this oversight in the 4th stimulus package currently under discussion.

This crisis has completely decimated the U.S. motorcoach industry. Today nearly every one of the 3,500 companies are completely shut down, with nearly 36,000 vehicles parked and 100,000 employees laid off, across all 50 states. Prior to this pandemic, the motorcoach industry provided over \$6 billion in wages and over \$15 billion in total economic impact to the United States economy.

The motorcoach industry's role in the national transportation network is not widely understood. Motorcoach companies play a vital role in transporting the public, to and between urban centers, oftentimes in conjunction with air and rail service. They also move our military between bases and deployments; provide critical connections for rural and underserved communities to reach necessary services, including medical

125 State Street, Suite 3
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 426-3233
www.banybus.org

services; connect travelers between cities; and bring everyday commuters to their jobs. As well, and perhaps lesser known, the motorcoach industry serves as a critical component of the nation's emergency response capabilities. In times of weather-related events, such as hurricanes, motorcoaches provide evacuation services to the federal and state emergency management agencies. Notably, in just the past few weeks, motorcoaches assisted in the evacuation of cruise ship passengers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The motorcoach industry also provides well-paying jobs within New York. However, during the recent crisis, many of these companies have been forced to close their doors, a permanent situation for some, and lay-off employees. Employees who are now unemployed include motorcoach drivers, who were in short supply prior to this crisis, and who cannot be easily reinstated under federal rules. As well, it takes time to bring back online parked or relinquished motorcoach vehicles, due to insurance requirements and state motor vehicle regulations. All to say, if the motorcoach industry is to be ready to assist in the recovery at the close of this crisis, getting people back to work and moving the economy, we need help now to survive.

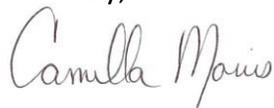
The American Bus Association estimates, at this point, the industry needs at least \$10 billion in grant assistance and \$5 billion in loan guarantees to maintain the viability of the industry, and the situation grows worse as the emergency measures continue through the coming months.

We are requesting your help in educating Congress on the importance of this industry to New York as well as the nation. We need immediate and direct economic assistance for this industry to bridge the crisis and be positioned to help in the recovery effort, as well as stand ready to assist with emergency response needs. Please reach out to your respective Congressional delegation, and support direct financial support in the 4th stimulus package to preserve the U.S. motorcoach industry.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information. I may be reached at (518) 426-3233 or by email at BANY@BANYBus.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Camilla Morris
President, Bus Association of New York State
Hale Transportation – Oneonta Division

cc: Chris O'Brien, Deputy Secretary for Transportation