



March 17, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

The members of the Bus Association of New York (BANY) need your help. As BANY president, I write today to urge you to ensure that any assistance provided by Congress to address the economic downturn due to COVID-19 explicitly include the motorcoach, tour and travel industries. With the worldwide outbreak continuing to spread, the devastating impact on travel and transportation operators is compounded. As Congress reviews and develops strategies to conduct interventions to help workers, firms and industries facing severe economic losses by this pandemic, I request that the motorcoach, tour and travel industries are not forgotten.

Founded in 1938, 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 across the State of New York and beyond, 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.

As mentioned above, the motorcoach, tour and travel industries are dominated by small businesses, and most often these are family owned, multigenerational businesses. These small businesses are not capable of withstanding even a modest downturn in domestic travel and tourism, let alone the devastating situation the travel industry is currently experiencing. Our member companies are hearing daily from clients who are panicked and canceling travel, and the situation is expected to further deteriorate in the coming weeks and months. In response to these statistics and stock market reports, Congress has taken some action to alleviate stresses caused by the outbreak. However, among all the data and reports concerning travel, the focus seems to remain on large, corporate entities rather than considering the small businesses that form the backbone of the U.S. tour and travel industry, as well as provide vital links for rural communities, commuting employees, school children, and price-sensitive travelers.

Our Association members urgently needs your help on this matter. As an Association we have been communicating with our membership on updates on COVID-19, including information so that they can **prioritize the health and safety of both our customers and employees but we also need help from you to make sure the industry itself is not devastated by this crisis.** As Congress aggressively seeks measures to combat the economic downturn resulting from the spread of COVID-19, we implore you to keep in mind the myriad of small, family owned businesses engaged in motorcoach, tour and travel operations.

Sincerely,

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