

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 23, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

The motorcoach, school bus, and passenger vessel industries have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these companies are still struggling to get back to business as normal as the coronavirus is still limiting travel and entertainment opportunities. The December 2020 COVID relief package through the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act provided invaluable support to these industries and their workers. However, when this provision was enacted, it failed to afford grants under the CERTS program the same tax treatment as other pandemic business assistance programs.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) grants were all made non-taxable while all related business expenses remain fully deductible. However, the CERTS Act grants are taxable. We know that the Senate Finance Committee would have worked to provide similar tax treatment for this program if the matter was brought to the Committee's attention at the time. These funds were intended to be emergency relief and should be treated the same as other coronavirus relief funds, which are exempt from tax while related business expenses remain deductible. This clarification would help simplify tax compliance for these industries, many of which are small and family businesses, as well as provide parity with other industries hard hit by the pandemic.

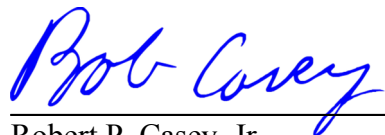
These industries provide essential transportation services to the public and need to remain in business. These businesses were some of the first to shut down in 2020 and will be among the last to fully recover. The CERTS Act grants, while extremely beneficial, only replaced about twenty percent of lost revenue from 2020. With the Delta variant leading many commuters and travelers to continue to stay at home, the economic impacts on these industries will be prolonged. Many operators do not expect to return to "normal" business until sometime in 2023. Requiring these struggling businesses to pay back a large portion of these emergency grants in taxes will further delay their recovery.

Thank you for your time and attention to helping these hard-hit industries recover from the pandemic by exempting CERTS grant funding from taxable income on the same terms as similar programs. We look forward to working with you to fix this inequity.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



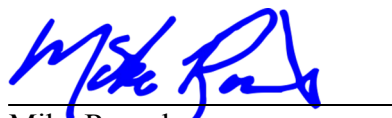
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



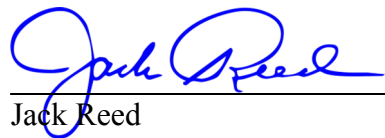
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Mike Rounds  
United States Senator

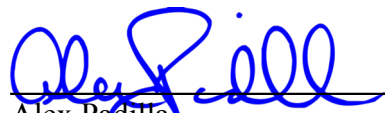


Jack Reed  
United States Senator



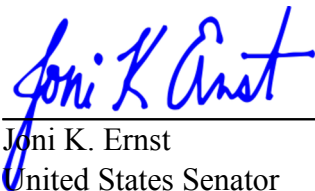
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Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



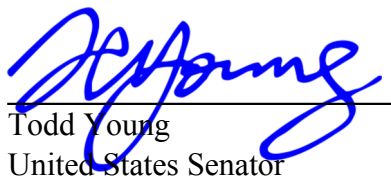
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Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator




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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator




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Todd Young  
United States Senator




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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



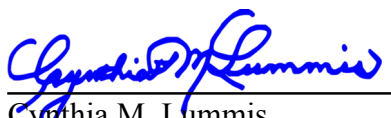
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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator




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Tina Smith  
United States Senator




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Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator




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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator




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Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator




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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



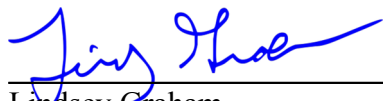
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Richard Burr  
United States Senator

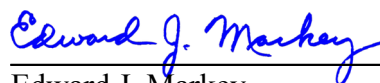


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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



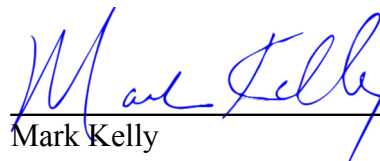
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator




Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator