



P E N N S Y L V A N I A
B U S A S S O C I A T I O N

Representing the Motorcoach Industry Since 1923

August 24, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

On behalf of Pennsylvania's private bus companies as well as our affiliate members, I am writing to request your assistance in resolving a grave oversight. Founded in 1923, the PA Bus Association (PBA) represents the broader interests of private motorcoach companies, their vendors as well as travel and tourism entities and generates \$6 billion in dollars in the Commonwealth of PA each year.

A significant portion of our membership is made up of small and often family-owned businesses, such as Bailey Coach, York County's only charter motorcoach company and transportation provider. These businesses are the backbones of their local communities providing jobs. Our operator members (members who own and operate busing companies) provide critical transportation to schools, universities, travelers, the military, provide disaster relief and commute workers across Pennsylvania. Our members are responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of millions of Pennsylvanians annually. 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.

We have only received assistance through the "*Coronavirus economic Relief for Transportation Services*" (CERTS) this month through the U.S. Treasury, but it was too little and too late for some to stay in business. It also doesn't compare to the funding provisions received by the airlines, airports, Amtrak, and transit operations. However, the U.S. motorcoach industry overall, connects with each one of these operations as part of the larger national transportation network. Unfortunately, the U.S. Treasury quickly realized that the needs of the motorcoach industry far exceeded the \$2 billion in funding appropriated for the CERTS Act grant program by nearly \$7 billion. Moreover, the CERTS funding was based on the industry's losses in the prior year and did not even consider the significant losses in 2021. With the Delta COVID variant in full swing, the future is more uncertain.

PBA sincerely appreciates your continued leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and **urges you to please speak with the PA Congressional Delegation and request their assistance to address this oversight as Congress considers the reconciliation legislation to enact President Biden's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.** Specifically, we are respectfully requesting the inclusion of \$6 billion in additional funding for the CERTS program.

In addition, the **PBA respectfully requests your assistance for pandemic relief assistance from any unspent American Rescue Plan funding, like was recently announced to provide relief for the salon industry.** Again, the U.S. Treasury has confirmed that the needs of the motorcoach industry far exceeded the funding level of the CERTS grant program by nearly \$7 billion. Moreover, the Pennsylvania-based bus transportation industry needs your help in educating Congress on the importance of this industry to Pennsylvania 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 our Congressional delegation and support direct financial support in the form of \$6 billion in additional funding for the CERTS program.**

Tom, the Wolf and Bailey Families have been employers in York County for generations and we need to continue this legacy, but without immediate help as outlined above it will make it very difficult for our businesses to survive this pandemic.

Sincerely,

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Senator Pat Brown
Senator Vince Hughes
Representative Stan Saylor
Representative Matt Bradford