

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-222
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

We want to start by thanking you for the enactment of the \$2 billion Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act last December. We are writing you today to let you know that we still desperately need your help. The program was oversubscribed with losses of over \$8 billion in 2020 from the companies that applied, far exceeding the initial funding level. Therefore, we seek your support for including an additional \$6 billion for the CERTS program in the reconciliation package now under discussion.

Our associations, along with the entire motorcoach industry, have suffered catastrophic losses due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. This industry, which employed close to 100,000 in 2019, is losing its skilled employees at an alarming rate. Our businesses were among the first to shut down and now, as the virus continues to pose a threat, we are falling further behind in terms of recovery. We have already lost nearly twenty-five percent of the industry and do not expect to return to any form of “normal” business until sometime in 2023. By then we will lose many more companies if additional assistance is not provided.

Motorcoach companies provide critical transportation services to the United States. These operations reduce congestion for urban centers while providing reliable and affordable transportation to millions of commuters. Motorcoach companies move the military and their equipment, including the transport of National Guard forces to protect the U.S. Capitol and Washington, D.C. Motorcoach companies support evacuation efforts from natural disasters including wildfires and hurricanes. For many rural and low-income areas of the country, motorcoach service provides the only transportation option to reach jobs, education, and critical services, and motorcoach operations routinely provide the “gap” transportation service to ensure the national public transportation “network” functions efficiently.

Our association members need more help to survive, and our national transportation system needs motorcoaches – you cannot “build back better” without buses. Please support our members’ businesses and the motorcoach industry nationwide, by urging Congressional leadership to include an additional \$6 billion in funding for the CERTS program in the upcoming reconciliation package.

Thank you in advance for your leadership.

Sincerely,

COALITION OF STATE AND REGIONAL BUS AND MOTORCOACH ASSOCIATIONS

Alabama Motorcoach Association



Connecticut Bus Association



Midwest Bus & Motorcoach Association



New England Bus Association



Virginia Motorcoach Association



Asian American Motorcoach Association



Florida Motorcoach Association



Minnesota Charter Bus Operator's Association



Association

North West Motorcoach Association



Wisconsin Motorcoach Association



Bus Association of New Jersey



Georgia Motorcoach Operators Association



Motorcoach Association of South Carolina



Pennsylvania Bus Association



Bus Association of New York



Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association



National Association of Motorcoach Operators



South Central Motorcoach Association



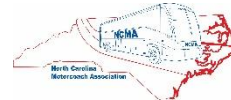
California Bus Association



Maryland Motorcoach Association



North Carolina Motorcoach Association



Tennessee Motorcoach Association

