



February 24, 2023

The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3805

Re: CERTS Support

Dear Senator Casey,

On behalf of Pennsylvania's private bus companies as well as our affiliate members, I greatly appreciated all your efforts last Congress to help me and the bus industry, in dealing with our COVID relief grants and the unexpected tax liability – which is forcing us to have to pay close to 50% of our grants back. As you'll recall, we had tremendous bipartisan support, in both the House and Senate, to fix this tax burden, and we were hopeful the fix would be included in the end of year Omnibus package last Dec. But we understand that because there was no "tax section" in the bill, our issue was left out.

The Pennsylvania Bus Association (<http://pabus.org/>) was founded in 1923 and has functioned without interruption and with an unrelenting commitment to the safety of the traveling public and the economic well-being of its member companies. PBA boasts a well-rounded program of activities for both bus operator and supplier members and carries a current membership of over 500 entities. Governmental affairs, travel and tourism marketing, education, safety, and communication constitute the major areas of involvement for this, one of the oldest public passenger transportation associations in the United States.

Earlier this month, Senators Warner (D-VA) and Moran (R-KS), along with Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16) & Rep Panetta (D-CA-19) — reintroduced legislation to provide retroactive tax relief for grants that went to the broadband industry, similar to our case with the CERTS grants. The broadband grants came out of the bipartisan infrastructure bill (IIJA) and also the American Rescue Plan – which was the last COVID relief bill passed in 2021. This is precisely the same relief we are seeking in the motorcoach industry for our CERTS grants – it's the same type of inequitable tax burden, that was not intended for COVID relief programs. The motorcoach industry needs this same relief. The CERTS grants were supposed to provide relief from the impacts of the pandemic, and we are still struggling to recover. Unlike other COVID relief programs that provided grants that were exempted from tax, we had to pay tax on our grants – this was a huge burden, putting us at a significant disadvantage and devastating our recovery.

I would like to schedule some time with you and/or your staff, to see how we can make another push for CERTS tax relief, to ensure all of these grants are treated equitably and receive retroactive tax relief.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cowley, Executive Director
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