

## Senators ask Treasury Secretary for speedy action on CERTS Act

Led by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed (D-RI), Senate supporters of the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act wrote the incoming Secretary of the Treasury, Janet Yellen to ask for quick action to fund the program. They also said they're "encouraged to hear Treasury staff has already begun to consult with various industry advocacy groups. . . "

"We supported the CERTS Act because America's bus, motorcoach, school bus, and passenger vessel industries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic," the letter said. "While often overlooked, these companies play an essential role in national and community transportation networks. As one example, the motorcoach industry recently provided more than 700 buses to transport National Guard troops to protect our nation's capital. Regrettably, virtually every major source of business and revenue for these companies - including school and sports-related travel, tourism, and mass public events such as concerts - has been severely restricted or eliminated."

The Senators closed their letter saying, "We look forward to working together and stand ready to provide any guidance or support you may need throughout the process."

### United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write to congratulate you on your confirmation to lead the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to request your assistance in expeditiously implementing the *Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act* provisions that were included in the recently-enacted *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act*.


We supported the *CERTS Act* because America's bus, motorcoach, school bus, and passenger vessel industries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. While often overlooked, these companies play an essential role in national and community transportation networks. As one example, the motorcoach industry recently provided more than 700 buses to transport National Guard troops to protect our nation's capital. Regrettably, virtually every major source of business and revenue for these companies – including school and sports-related travel, tourism, and mass public events such as concerts – has been severely restricted or eliminated.

The past year has been incredibly challenging for these vital transportation providers – and the forecast for the months ahead indicates that a return to normal operations is not coming soon. To successfully reopen our economy, we need the bus, motorcoach, school bus, passenger vessel, and passenger ferry companies ready and available to provide transportation on which Americans rely. That is why the Treasury Department must move as quickly as possible to ensure that this assistance is distributed to the companies that desperately need it to pay their employees and keep their doors open.

We are encouraged to hear that Treasury staff has already begun to consult with various industry advocacy groups, and urge you to work expeditiously towards implementation. We look forward to working together and stand ready to provide any guidance or support you may need throughout the process.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

/s/ Charles E. Grassley  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator