April 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

We urge Congress to take action to support thousands of bowling proprietors and other small businesses across the country by increasing funding for the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by $250 billion and renewing funding for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL).

The Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America (BPAA) represents over 3,500 bowling centers across the United States, led by small business owners who are the heart of their communities. Bowling has a $10 billion impact on the U.S. economy and supports over 100,000 jobs. It is the largest participatory sport in the U.S. with over 67 million Americans hitting the lanes a year. All of these small businesses also greatly contribute to their communities with over $6 million in scholarships a year and over $225 million raised for charities, some including the Bowlers to Veterans Link and the Special Olympics.

Bowling proprietors and their workforce have been devastated by the impacts of COVID-19. Their centers have been shut down across the nation for weeks. These small businesses desperately need the support through the PPP and the EIDL so they can support their workforce and prepare to hopefully reopen their centers soon. We ask that Congress move swiftly to replenish the funding for the PPP and the EIDL.

Additionally, in determining loan forgiveness under the PPP, the CARES Act provides that borrowers have until June 30, 2020 to restore their full time employment and salary levels. We ask that Congress amend this date to August 31, 2020 to account for small businesses that have been completely shut down. Flexibility is needed to support both our small businesses and our hard working employees.

We appreciate your leadership for the bowling industry and the more than 3,500 small businesses that make it up.

Sincerely,

Frank DeSocio
Executive Director
BPAA

Roger Nyquist
Government Affairs Committee Chair
BPAA