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***Midwest Bus & Motorcoach Assn.***

May 1, 2020

To U.S. Congressional Leaders:

The Midwest Bus & Motorcoach Association represents motorcoach operations and suppliers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, and Ohio with operators utilizing over 1,200 motorcoaches, school buses, mini-coaches, and executive day coaches. Our Midwest members provide transport for more than one million passenger trips annually. **We have member operators that have been in business since 1925, and we have never experienced the decimating effects of a crisis like this.**

**Since March 13, the entire motorcoach industry has been shut down and most have zero income.** This industry provides 600 million passenger trips annually, almost as many as the airlines. But now, across the country, nearly every one of the 3,000 motorcoach businesses have shut their doors and laid-off employees, and this means permanent closure for many.

The U.S. motorcoach industry provides essential transportation services to this nation, connecting rural communities and urban destinations and providing daily commuter services to hundreds of thousands of individuals going to work, and transporting children to school and educational events. We serve those with fixed incomes and travelers without cars. Aside from meeting public transportation needs, our industry also plays a key role in emergency and defense planning across the nation. In times of hurricanes and other natural disasters, motorcoaches are a critical part of FEMA and state emergency response efforts and are relied upon by the General Services Administration.

As described, without the motorcoach industry, the effects on all the businesses it supports will be detrimental. No sports, no Broadway Shows, no concerts, no school trips. Imagine what this will do to the American people that depend on these industries? It will snowball. **Without buses, nothing happens in America.**

We need your help to save the Motorcoach Industry. The third stimulus package enacted on March 27, 2020, **entirely overlooked the U.S. motorcoach industry.** It specifically earmarked grants and loans for the airlines, airports, public transit and Amtrak, but gave No help to our industry - even after we reached out to Congress and the White House, repeatedly.

We urge you and your colleagues to not overlook our plight. As with the airlines we have lost all our passengers. We need grants-in-aid and loans explicitly directed to the U.S. motorcoach industry, as done with the airlines, to save employees and the industry.

While the third stimulus package provides some assistance to motorcoach companies, who are predominantly small businesses, it is too little too late and of little value to most who will not be able to take advantage of it. Since the SBA loan program is oversubscribed and most companies have already laid-off or furloughed most of their employees, and drivers cannot be rehired instantaneously under federal rules, it moots any opportunity for loan forgiveness. The industry needs direct economic aid assistance to survive, and we need your help now.

Our member companies want to remain in business and be ready to provide transportation services to their community and the region as soon as this crisis is over. There will be a need for these services, but they need a bridge to get there – not a long-term financing commitment, simply a bridge to weather this crisis.

**In the Phase 4 Relief Package, please think of the motorcoach businesses and support them at this critical time. The industry, at this point, needs at least \$10 billion in grant assistance and \$5 billion in loan guarantees to maintain the viability of the industry. The situation continues to worsen as emergency measures extend.**

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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