



July 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The National Restaurant Association appreciates the ongoing awareness and leadership you have taken on behalf of the more than one million foodservice locations and 15.6 million employees of our industry as we face the greatest challenge we have ever witnessed. As you work toward bipartisan agreement on a fourth coronavirus response bill, we offer a simple message: current federal recovery mechanisms are not enough to sustain the nation's second-largest private sector employer.

In just the past two weeks alone, state and local government mandates have shut down almost 100,000 restaurants. Many are advising us they cannot survive this ongoing on/off approach to operations and will permanently close. In April, we wrote you to share our projections that the U.S. restaurant industry would lose \$240 billion in revenue this year. As of today, the industry has lost over \$120 billion and the current revenue path aligns with our year-end loss projections.

Since the restaurant industry was first shuttered March 14, the National Restaurant Association and our State Restaurant Association partners have led the call at the federal, state, and local levels for policies that will allow businesses and employees not to profit, but simply to survive this pandemic. Despite losing more jobs and revenue than any other industry, Congress has chosen not to advance a recovery package that is tailored for the unique challenges of a major industry on the cusp of bankruptcy.

Restaurants are the cornerstone of every community – we employ people from every walk of life, we offer ownership and management opportunities for minority communities that no industry can match, and we are a critical economic engine for every region in the country.

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The restaurant industry is one of tenacity, innovation, and dedication to serving our community. We are looking to Congress not only for support for our short-term survival, but to create a long-term framework that sustains our role as a key part of the food supply chain for the millions of families that rely on us for nourishment.

To that end, I am pleased to offer our comprehensive “Blueprint for Revival” that reflects the new challenges and opportunities facing the restaurant industry. Many of the components build on earlier federal programs and integrate them with a broad series of policy actions to support restaurants, our employees, and the communities we serve. We have worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to advance proposals that can earn bipartisan support in Congress and the Administration.

We urge you to consider the Blueprint for Restaurant Revival in your deliberations in the coming weeks, and we applaud your work thus far to help address the COVID-19 crisis. Working together we can help return our employees to work, put our economy back on track to expansion, and ensure the continued health and safety of our fellow citizens in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



Sean Kennedy
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs

Enclosures:
National Restaurant Association “Blueprint for Restaurant Revival”