



June 17, 2021

Honorable Isabel Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, and chain, franchise, and independent restaurants, thank you for your leadership in administering the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). The Fund has saved thousands of restaurants and we are grateful for the countless nights and weekends SBA staff has devoted to bring this program online.

As you know all too well, 2,965 small business restaurant owners are reeling from the announcement that SBA must rescind approval for their RRF grants. These men and women have struggled to keep their restaurants afloat during the most challenging period in our industry's history. The acceptance letter they received from the SBA represented a commitment to provide not only federal funding, but also a needed bit of hope that they would survive to serve their community. The announcement that their grants will be awarded to others has left them confused, frustrated, and afraid they will have to close their doors for good.

To be clear, we are very mindful that this action is to comply with a federal court ruling, and that you remain committed to preserving and sustaining the nation's second largest private-sector employer.

These 2,965 restaurants received a commitment from the SBA for federal relief, and they deserve every effort to achieve this. We urge you to review all pandemic relief programs under your control for the prospect of any appropriate reprogramming of federal dollars to fulfill your prior commitments to them.

Of equal importance are the hundreds of thousands of restaurant operators who have submitted RRF applications, which will not be considered due to insufficient federal funding. Congress must complete the mission of the RESTAURANTS Act and replenish the RRF – an ask we and our membership will continue to press on Capitol Hill.

Thank you again for your ongoing leadership on behalf of the restaurant industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Kennedy".

Sean Kennedy
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs

Cc: Bipartisan leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate