



May 29, 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:

We write to encourage Congress to work with the National Restaurant Association toward providing additional, targeted relief to help an essential American industry as it struggles to deal with the ongoing COVID crisis.

Across our nation, a broad range of businesses, institutions, states and municipalities rely on restaurants and their employees to support local economies. What hurts the restaurant industry hurts our suppliers, partners, customers and entire communities.

No industry has been hit harder during this crisis. Even as some states begin the long and thorough process of reopening – in an era of safety protocols and social distancing – restaurant recovery is far from certain. Four in 10 restaurants are still closed and two-thirds of all industry employees (more than eight million) have already been laid off. In many urban areas rehiring, retraining, and reopening to full-service operation is weeks, or even months away.

Restaurants are cornerstones of their communities and the overall economy. Pre-COVID, restaurants were the second largest private sector employer. Moreover – in addition to those directly employed in the industry – the sector supported an additional 21 million jobs outside the industry, and generated more than \$2.5 trillion in economic activity.

Restaurants support a diverse and interconnected supply chain that is struggling because of these closures and layoffs: farms of all sizes, meat, poultry, and produce suppliers, specialty growers, bakers, fishermen, the dairy industry, food distributors, frozen food companies, banks and credit unions, service providers, beverage and alcohol production and distribution partners, manufacturers, staffing and support providers, and technology partners, among others.



Restaurants employ a workforce that is more diverse than any other sector of the economy, counting more women and diverse managers and owners than any other. Restaurants are the leading second-chance employer for those reentering the workforce from incarceration and the industry is where one in three Americans found their first job. A full 90 percent of all restaurants are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Even in good times, restaurants typically operate on razor-thin margins with an average cash reserve of just two weeks.

Congress and the President have taken historic and bipartisan action to help our country weather the COVID crisis. This is important progress, but more work is needed. Helping restaurants recover will help all of our industries and will provide a powerful and locally-targeted tool to help reunite and rebuild communities across the country in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

993 Ocean Drive, LLC
American Frozen Food Institute
American Scallop Association
Blue Harvest Fisheries
Cape Clam, Inc.
Cape May Ice Co., Inc.
Cape Trawlers, Inc.
Compliance Metrix, LLC
Consumer Brands Association
CP Solutions
Cumberland Freezers, LLC
Dakota Provisions
Delmarva Fisheries Association, Inc.
Dewey Destin's Seafood Restaurants
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant
DMA
Dorothy May, LLC
EFCO Products, Inc.
Elise G, LLC
Evening Star, LLC
F/V Charisma, LLC
F/V Gannett, LLC
Garden State Seafood Association
Golden Nugget, LLC
Gulf Coast Seafood Alliance
Hunter Scalloping Company, LLC
Illex One, LLC
Inlet Seafood Packhouse & Restaurant
International Foodservice Distributors Association

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2055 L Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036 | (202) 331-5900 | (800) 424-5156



Kathryn Marie Scalloping Company, LLC
Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
Loper-Bright Enterprises, Inc.
Lund's Export Sales Co., Inc.
Lund's Fisheries, Inc.
Lund-Marr Trawlers, LLC
Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA
Merchants Foodservice
Miss Madeline, LLC
MNT Vernon, LLC
Nancy Elizabeth, LLC
National Beer Wholesalers Association
National Fisheries Institute
North Carolina Fisheries Association
Ocean Leader, LLC
Orlando Baking Co.
Oxnard Unloading Services, LLC
PepsiCo
Performance Food Group
Pier Fish Co.
Port Hueneme Inc., LLC
S&D Coffee and Tea
Sauer Brands
Scombrus One, LLC
Shakari, LLC
Shift4
Squid Light, LLC
Sun Coast Calamari, Inc.
Sunny Sky Products, LLC
Surfside Foods
Sysco
The Coca-Cola Company
The Multi-Unit Group
Top Fish, LLC
UniPro Foodservice, Inc.
US Foods
Wanchese Fish Company
Western Explorer, LLC
Western Growers Association
Weston Foods
WIFTEK, LLC
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Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

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