Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA). Our associations represent thousands of large, medium and small companies, many of whom are engaged in conceptualizing, organizing and executing events. Other trade associations also are requesting assistance for the events sector, which we support.

I would first like to express our strong support and appreciation for the Administration’s efforts to address the coronavirus outbreak. Many of us are working to help the Administration in addressing the coronavirus outbreak. For instance, some of our member companies are working with the Administration on a variety of responses including making relevant scientific publishing available more quickly, providing online learning and telework opportunities, and encouraging the proper legal and regulatory environment for platforms to provide accurate information. We are proud of our industry’s response to date and stand ready to help in other ways to support our nation during this unique public health crisis.

We appreciate the Administration’s plans to provide a Commercial Paper Funding Facility to support the flow of credit to businesses and households, which should help in a macro sense. Our understanding is that the Administration also is considering relief for the hospitality industry, which would include, hotels and cruise lines, among other businesses.

As you consider assistance for the hospitality industry, we urge you to take an expansive view of the types of businesses engaged in this sector. Our associations represent a number of events production businesses. Events are a critical component of our nation’s economy. They provide opportunities for business partnerships as well as knowledge sharing and educational opportunities that can lead to new innovations. Moreover, events directly and indirectly employ millions of Americans, from event producers and organizers, including in the media space, to local food and technology vendors. The entire industry has been forced to sharply curtail, even eliminate entirely, their activities, thus jeopardizing their ability to stay in business. Such companies should be eligible for whatever relief – e.g. deferring tax payments, payroll tax reductions, tax credits to retain employees, loan guarantees, loan forbearance, and cancellation of debts through executive action – is provided for the hospitality industry.

We are at your or your staff’s disposal to provide additional information should that prove helpful. We understand that in these exceptional times, the priority must be to enable companies to retain
employees. But time is of the essence, and we would very much appreciate the ability to speak to a member of your staff about how to find a way to provide relief quickly.

Sincerely,

Jeff Joseph
President - SIIA

Sherrif Karamat
President & CEO - PCMA

CC: Mr. Larry Kudlow
   Director
   National Economic Council
   White House

CC: Mr. Michael Kratsios
   Chief Technology Officer of the United States
   White House