

Hon. Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 20, 2020

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Hon. McConnell, Hon. Pelosi, Hon. Schumer, & Hon. McCarthy:

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 Congress's efforts to address the coronavirus outbreak. A number of our member companies are working 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 plan 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 Congress is also 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



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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. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Joseph", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Joseph
President - SIIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherrif Karamat", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sherrif Karamat
President & CEO - PCMA