

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership in providing critical economic relief for Americans during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. This assistance has kept millions of families out of poverty, saved countless small businesses, and avoided a calamitous economic depression. However, our work will be erased without further federal assistance. As you negotiate with the Senate and Trump administration on the next relief package, it is critical that you include H.R. 7197, the RESTAURANTS Act, in any final bill to save America's 500,000 independent restaurants and their 11 million employees.

Restaurants are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic is putting their survival in jeopardy. Since the pandemic upended American life in mid-March, thousands of independent, local restaurants have closed their doors, laid off employees, and now face an uncertain future. Every link in the \$1 trillion restaurant supply chain is affected.

The restaurant industry has been uniquely devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is particularly true of independent restaurants, which account for more than three-quarters of all restaurants and bars in the United States. The restaurant sector is the top contributor to unemployment rolls across America. Even with restaurants and bars reopening, employment in the restaurant industry is down 3.1 million people since February. Some of these jobs are coming back but many will never return, and some reopened restaurants may not stay open without federal assistance.

The Real Economic Support That Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed To Survive (RESTAURANTS) Act creates a restaurant revitalization fund that is available through 2020 and can be used for everything from payroll and benefits to food, utilities, and rent. A June 2020 study on the legislation found it would generate at least \$183 billion in primary benefits and \$65 billion in secondary benefits – more than double the amount of the fund. The legislation would also reduce the U.S. unemployment rate by an estimated 2.4 percent. Without this type of targeted assistance, 85% of independent restaurants are at risk of permanently closing.

Thank you for your consideration of the RESTAURANTS Act in the next COVID-19 relief bill. We look forward to partnering with you to save independent restaurants across America.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/

Pete King
Member of Congress

/s/

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

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Francis Rooney
Member of Congress

/s/

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

/s/

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

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Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

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Andy Kim
Member of Congress

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Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

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Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

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Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

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Max Rose
Member of Congress

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Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

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Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

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Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

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Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

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Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

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Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

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Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

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Adam Smith
Member of Congress

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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

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Don Beyer
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Tony Cárdenas
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Ed Case
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Judy Chu
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David N. Cicilline
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Yvette Clarke
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Steve Cohen
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Jim Cooper
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Jim Costa
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Henry Cuellar
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Diana DeGette
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Rosa DeLauro
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Ted Deutch
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Mike Doyle
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Veronica Escobar
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Adriano Espaillat
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Dwight Evans
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Bill Foster
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Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

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Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Gomez
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Alcee L. Hastings
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Brian Higgins
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Jared Huffman
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William R. Keating
Member of Congress

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Ro Khanna
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

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Ann McLane Kuster
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

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John B. Larson
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee
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Andy Levin
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Ted Lieu
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Doris Matsui
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Betty McCollum
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Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

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Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

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Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

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Chellie Pingree
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Mike Quigley
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Cedric Richmond
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Tim Ryan
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Bradley S. Scheider
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Darren Soto
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Greg Stanton
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Eric Swalwell
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Mike Thompson
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Dina Titus
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Norma J. Torres
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Lori Trahan
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David Trone
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Marc Veasey
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Jefferson Van Drew
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Danny K. Davis
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Tom O'Halleran
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Grace Meng
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Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

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James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

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Angie Craig
Member of Congress

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Scott Peters
Member of Congress