

Date]

The Honorable [Member of Congress]
[United States Senate or House of Representatives]
[Office Address]
Washington, DC [ZIP]

Dear [Salutation]:

I am writing today to make an appeal to you on behalf of the meetings and travel industry.

The industry, which has been adversely impacted by America's economic downturn, has also been harmed by derogatory comments by some of our governmental leaders, which in turn fueled over-the-top sensational media coverage.

We have witnessed how meetings, programs and events have been postponed and canceled due to financial considerations as well as a "fear" of meeting. As a result, we are experiencing a devastating effect on local economies.

Damaging rhetoric and legislation impacts small business owners, waitresses, bellmen, cab drivers, airline stewards, meeting planners, and many others.

America is a country that does its business in meetings. Whether it is a business meeting or a conference on critical healthcare issues, our meetings and travel industry is a vital cog in America's economic well-being.

Business-related travel accounts for \$240 billion, \$49 billion in taxes and 2.4 million jobs. Meetings, events and incentive travel generate \$101 billion in spending, \$16 billion in taxes and a million jobs.

Therefore, I am asking for your support. At this critical time for our nation, Congress is looking for ways to support local economies and business. We ask that you consider legislation that will make a positive difference for our industry. At the same time, we ask that you pay close attention to the legislation that can potentially devastate the meetings and travel industry.

I am requesting that you stand up against negative meetings rhetoric that only endangers jobs and puts at risk the tax dollars, which helps fund critical public services in my community.

Please recognize the importance of the meetings industry and its impact on local economies, including the tax revenue it derives.

Thank you for your consideration about the meetings industry. I would be happy to visit with you. Please contact me at [contact information].

Sincerely,

[Contact]
{Title}