

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), I write regarding a potential federal aid package to support small businesses and industries impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. As NMMA continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, we appreciate your work to keep our employees and communities safe, and request you consider the following measures to further protect employees, support small businesses and allow U.S. manufacturers to reinvest in America.

NMMA is the trade association for the U.S. recreational boating industry, representing nearly 1,300 marine businesses, including recreational boat, marine engine and accessory manufacturers. The vast majority—84 percent—of recreational boat manufacturers are small businesses, and in fact, 95 percent of the boats that are sold in the U.S. are made in the U.S. NMMA members collectively manufacture more than 85 percent of the marine products sold in the U.S. Furthermore, the recreational boating industry has a significant impact on our nation's economy and in communities across the country, employing nearly 700,000 American jobs across 35,000 U.S.-based marine businesses.

Tax Credits During Time Businesses are Forced to Temporarily Close

Our first and foremost priority is the health and safety of our direct employees and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who work for the recreational marine industry; thus, we must ensure that workers have continued access to adequate health care in the event of lay-offs from an economic downturn.

- We applaud Congress' recent efforts to provide resources and assistance – including tax credits – for employers who continue to pay workers who are quarantined and encourage you to extend that support during periods that a business is forced to temporarily close.

Remove Section 301 and 232 Tariffs

NMMA is concerned with supply chain uncertainty as more and more overseas manufacturing plants temporarily shutter their facilities. Disruptions in the supply chain and exorbitant tariffs on \$360 billion worth of products and aluminum and steel tariffs have prevented U.S. small businesses from expanding capital in the U.S. Our small businesses rely on a global supply chain

and should not be subjected to steep tariffs for utilizing their long-standing relationships or wholly-owned facilities.

- We strongly urge Congress and the administration deliver a federal aid package that eliminates Section 301 Chinese tariffs and Section 232 aluminum and steel tariffs to promote and protect American jobs.
- We also encourage other countries to follow suit and suspend their own retaliatory measures to ensure further global economic loss is not exacerbated.

Streamline Approval for Small Business Disaster Loan Program

- Congress must ensure the Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan program is immediately available nation-wide to small businesses impacted by COVID-19 and streamline SBA's authority to approve disaster loans so these businesses can receive emergency capital more quickly.

Establish a Small Business Czar

- Assist in the response for small businesses by recommending the administration appoint a small business "czar" to help small businesses navigate the opportunities and measures that will aid their recovery.

Provide Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Financial Certainty

- We request that Congress encourage banking regulators to provide flexibility for small and medium-sized businesses facing short-term financial challenges, such as short-term loans.

Assist with Event and Major Meeting Cancellations

Hundreds of major meetings and events in the U.S. – dependent on in-person attendance at convention centers, hotels and other facilities – have been cancelled. These annual meetings and events contribute more than \$446 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product and directly support nearly six million jobs nationwide.

- NMMA urges you to include financial assistance for associations, nonprofits and other tax-exempt organizations, as many have been – and potentially will be – impacted by event cancellations as a result of COVID-19.

Again, we appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to working with you to protect American workers and ensure continued economic growth for U.S. small businesses.

Sincerely,



T. Nicole Vasilaros, Esq.
Senior Vice President, Government and Legal Affairs
National Marine Manufacturers Association

CC:

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510