



The American Bus Association – the industry leader advancing North American motorcoach travel and tourism – released a statement of support today of the Senate Small Business Committee’s legislation to provide COVID relief to restaurants and other small businesses.

This vital legislation will help a still struggling motorcoach industry, by provide an additional \$2 billion for grant funding to the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) program for motorcoaches, school buses and passenger vessels. In addition, this legislation would treat the CERTS grants like all other pandemic aid programs by exempting the grants from treatment as income.

“According to independent research, the motorcoach industry recorded an 82.6 percent loss of business in 2020, a 60 percent loss in 2021 and continues to operate well below pre-COVID levels because of the pandemic,” said Peter Pantuso, ABA President & CEO. “While we saw limited recovery over the past couple of years, the Delta and Omicron variants significantly slowed down recovery. We are not like to see full recovery until at least 2023 or 2024.”

“This industry is not asking for a government handout,” said Pantuso. “But we need a bridge to help our industry survive the pandemic. Nearly half of the motorcoach companies have closed over the last two years, mostly small family and minority businesses, and America can’t afford for us to lose more.”

The American Bus Association thanks Senator Cardin (D-MD) and Senator Wicker (R-MS) for their hard work in crafting this important legislation and for their commitment to help the nation’s small businesses recover from this pandemic. The American Bus Association urges all Senators to support the Cardin - Wicker proposal when it comes up for a vote as an amendment to the COVID Health Supplemental.

About the American Bus Association

The American Bus Association (ABA) is the trade organization of the intercity bus industry, with more than 1,000 motorcoach and tour company members in the United States and Canada. Its members operate charter, tour, regular route, airport express, special operations, and contract services. Another 2,800 members are travel and tourism organizations and suppliers of bus products and services who work in partnership with the North American motorcoach industry.