

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
S-230, US Capitol  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
S-221, US Capitol  
Washington, DC

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As Congress continues discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic response, we write to urge you to include the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act (S. 4150) in the next relief package. This bill would provide critical support to sectors of our transportation service network that have suffered and continue to suffer serious economic harm resulting from the pandemic. The bus, motor coach, and passenger vessel industries face a difficult road ahead and, to date, have been left out of the direct relief provided to other sectors.

For the more than 3,000 – mostly small and family-owned – motor coach companies across the U.S., the cancellation of school field trips, tours, and college sports seasons has already forced thousands of employees to be furloughed or laid off. The pandemic also continues to take a toll on the U.S. flag passenger vessel industry – grounding ferries and recreational tours – leaving owners and operators without customers and revenue. Finally, privately-owned school bus companies, which are responsible for transporting many of the more than 23 million school children who take the bus to school each day, face significant losses as states and localities move to virtual learning and curtail extracurricular and afterschool programs.

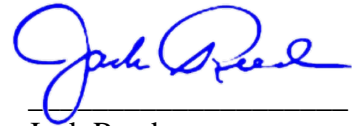
Just like the airline, passenger rail, and public transportation sectors, these businesses keep America moving. We cannot expect to make a full and robust economic recovery without them. Indeed, millions of Americans rely on these companies, including to convey military troops to training exercises, transport first responders to hurricane zones, and deliver evacuees to safety. As of this month, the motor coach industry estimates that scheduled service operations are down by nearly 80 percent, commuter operations are down by as much as 90 percent, and roughly 95 percent of charter trips have been cancelled or have simply not been booked. We represent both rural and urban communities across the country that rely on the bus, motor coach, and passenger vessel industries to ensure that children can get to school, employees can get to work, and travelers can connect with rail and air transportation hubs. We need these indispensable links to keep our communities connected and to help these industries avoid further financial instability. Our bill has strong bipartisan, bicameral support from members representing broad geographic and demographic diversity.

As countless businesses face the prospect of going under and communities grapple with the possibility of losing essential transportation service providers, we urge you to include CERTS Act in the next COVID-19 relief package. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter. We look forward to working with you to help address this important priority in the next relief package.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Burr  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Charles Grassley  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa A. Murkowski  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Joni Ernst  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Daines  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator