

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chair
Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chair
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
2069 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Cardin and Velazquez and Ranking Members Paul and Luetkemeyer:

Our organizations represent businesses that provide live entertainment through recreation, sports, and amusement venues in communities across the country. We applaud how the U.S. Congress responded to the plight faced by live performing arts entertainment businesses within the “Shuttered Venue Operators Grants” program. We respectfully urge lawmakers to create a similar program to provide grants to recreation, sports, and amusement venues, which provide live entertainment yet were excluded from SVOG.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns has resulted in unprecedented financial losses to American businesses and workers. Even as stay-at-home orders were lifted, many states placed restrictions on the sizes of gatherings that continue to impact the operations of entertainment businesses—from racetracks to agricultural fairs and amusement parks to minor league sports. While we support the intent of state and local governments to protect public health, lockdowns and capacity restrictions have endangered the future of many entertainment venues, which desperately need an economic lifeline from the Federal government.

Efforts such as the Paycheck Protection Program have helped many small businesses, although more assistance is needed to save live entertainment in communities across the country. The “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021” (Section 324 of Public Law No:116-260) created a \$15 billion grant program to primarily help indoor entertainment and performing arts venues. A similar program should be enacted to help struggling recreation, sports, and amusement entertainment venues, which are not eligible for this program but have endured equal financial hardship.

The requested \$15 billion economic lifeline is vital for the local communities that count on live venues for entertainment and the people they employ. As with the SVOG program created in the last stimulus bill, this fund should be designated to include payroll, rent payments, mortgage payments, utilities, PPE, and similar expenses.

We appreciate efforts in Congress to address the continued financial needs of individuals and businesses across the United States during these challenging times. We respectfully request

that this include financial support to ensure our nation's recreation, sports, and amusement small businesses that provide live entertainment are able to recover.

Sincerely,

American Horse Council

American Quarter Horse Association

American Motorcyclist Association

American Sportfishing Association

Diving Equipment & Marketing Association

Formula Drift

International Association of Fairs & Expositions

League of Agriculture & Equine Centers

Major League Fishing

National Thoroughbred Racing Association

New York Racing Association (Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course, Aqueduct Racetrack)

Off Road Business Association

Performance Racing Industry

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

Specialty Equipment Market Association

Summit Racing Equipment Motorsports Park

The Stronach Group (Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course, Santa Anita Park, Gulfstream Park)

United Four-Wheel Drive Associations

U.S. Motorsports Association