

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

Our organizations represent businesses and not for profit organizations that provide live entertainment or amusement through sports, mobile amusement, recreation, and fairs in communities across the country. We applaud the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for its efforts to implement the “Shuttered Venue Operators Grants” program, as it will help to save live performing arts entertainment businesses. We respectfully urge the SBA to determine that other family and community focused activities including motorsports, horse racing events, livestock shows, mobile amusement such as carnivals, and a range of recreation venues including local, county, state, and regional fairs, are eligible for SVOG.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns have 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, but Congress recognized that additional assistance was needed to preserve live entertainment given its importance to the social fabric of communities throughout the country. That was the reason Congress created a new program focused on helping a diverse array of live entertainment venues. We appreciate the SBA’s consideration of whether the SVOG could help struggling recreation, sports, and amusement entertainment venues, which have endured financial hardship through no fault of their own. These live event providers play an important role in providing entertainment and a sense of community in areas across the U.S.

We commend the SBA for its efforts to clarify and expand PPP eligibility throughout 2020 so that economic relief would reach a more inclusive cross-section of hard-working Americans. We hope that the agency can do the same with SVOG by issuing guidance extending grants to other live entertainment venues.

On behalf of the live event providers that we represent, we thank the SBA’s efforts to address the continued financial needs of individuals and businesses across the United States during

these challenging times. We respectfully request that this includes financial support to ensure our nation's recreation, sports, and amusement small businesses, and operators of the nation's fairgrounds can 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 and Equine Centers

Major League Fishing

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Grange

National Thoroughbred Racing Association

Off Road Business Association

Outdoor Amusement Business Association

Performance Racing Industry

Specialty Equipment Market Association

Summit Racing Equipment Motorsports Park

United Four-Wheel Drive Associations

U.S. Motorsports Association

CC: Kevin Wheeler, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Patrick Kelley, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access