U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

March 19, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S–230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H–232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of a broad coalition of organizations and companies representing every sector of the U.S. travel industry, we urge Congress to take immediate action to pay Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers and protect the frontline workers who safeguard our nation's aviation system and support millions of travelers each day.

Forcing these dedicated officers to work without pay—yet again—is not only unfair, it's reckless. The security of travelers and the country is at stake.

This situation is placing increasing strain on the frontline workforce responsible for protecting millions of travelers. Congress is asking TSA officers to carry out one of the most critical security missions in the federal government while withholding their paychecks and creating more operational pressure.

As shutdowns drag on, the consequences become increasingly visible to the traveling public. Workforce strain and declining morale contribute to staffing shortages that lead to **longer security lines, increased wait times and mounting stress on a system that must operate seamlessly to ensure the safety of the traveling public.**

The 43-day government shutdown cost America's travel industry $6 billion and impacted more than 6 million flyers. In what should be a historic year for travel, with the 2026 FIFA World Cup and America250 just a few short months away, TSA officers, travel businesses and the flying public cannot afford another day—let alone several weeks or months—of long wait times and increased stress on our nation's aviation security.

Forcing these workers to continue without pay undermines that stability and risks weakening the reliability of a system that protects travelers and billions of dollars in economic activity each day.

We urge Congress to:

- **Ensure TSA is fully funded immediately** so the agency can carry out its critical aviation security mission without disruption.
- **Cosponsor permanent solutions that guarantee pay for essential federal aviation workers during funding lapses**, such as the Keep America Flying Act (S.3031/H.R.5851), the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2025 (S.1045) and the Aviation Funding Solvency Act (H.R.6086).

Our nation relies on TSA officers to maintain the safety, security and reliability of the aviation system. They continue to show up for the American people every day even when their pay is uncertain.

We urge Congress to immediately fund TSA and enact pay protections for frontline aviation workers during future shutdowns.

Thank you for your leadership and prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Airlines for America
Airport Restaurant & Retail Association
Airports Council International - North America
American Airlines
American Association of Airport Executives
American Hotel and Lodging Association
American Resort Development Association
American Society of Travel Advisors
American Society of Association Executives
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Associated Luxury Hotels International
Caesars Entertainment
CLEAR
Consumer Technology Association
Delta Air Lines
Destinations International
Events Industry Council
Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance
Global Business Travel Association
Herschend Family Entertainment
Hertz
Hilton
IHG Hotels & Resorts
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions
International Association of Exhibitions & Events
International Franchise Association
International Inbound Travel Association
Loews Hotels & Co
Marriott International
Meeting Professionals International
MGM Resorts International
National Golf Course Owners Association
National Limousine Association
National Restaurant Association
National Ski Areas Association
National Tour Association
Omni Hotels & Resorts
Professional Convention Management Association
SITE/Society for Incentive Travel Excellence
Sports Events & Tourism Association
Travel Technology Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association
United Airlines
United Parks and Resorts
United States Tour Operators Association
Universal Destinations and Experiences
Universal Studios Hollywood

ALASKA
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Explore Fairbanks
Travel Juneau

ARIZONA
Visit Mesa
Best Western Pony Soldier & Suites
Experience Scottsdale
Phoenix Zoo - ACNC
Visit Phoenix
Visit Tucson
Visit Yuma

ARKANSAS
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
Visit Bentonville

CALIFORNIA
Afar
aRes Travel
Belmont Park
Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau
Blue and Gold Fleet
Buellton Visitors Bureau
BWP Santa Barbara
California Hotel and Lodging Association
California Travel Association
Cannery Row Company
Citadel Outlets
Delightful Departures
Destination America
Destination Analysts
Epic Sightseeing
Explore Butte County
Fogcutter Tours
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
HelmsBriscoe
Hilton Anaheim
Hilton Los Angeles Airport
HLLCA
Hollywood Hotel
Hotel Caza
Lake Shasta Caverns National Natural Landmark
Landmark Hotels Inc
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board
LOST iN
Love Catalina Island Tourism Authority
Marin CVB
OmniEra Events
Pacific Coachways Charter Services
San Diego Tourism Authority
Scuba Travel Ventures
SF Travel
Sonoma County Tourism
streamlinevents, inc.
The Dobbins Group
The Sardine Factory
The Westin Anaheim Resort
Tour America, LLC
Travel Santa Ana
Ventura County Lodging Association
Visit Anaheim
Visit Concord
Visit Dana Point
Visit Lodi
Visit Oakland
Visit Pasadena
Visit Rancho Cordova
Visit Santa Barbara
Visit SLO CAL
Visit the Santa Ynez Valley
Visit Tri-Valley
Visit Ventura
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

COLORADO
Destination Colorado Meetings
Destinationcoupons
Elevated Properties
Ski Resort Sales
Visit Denver
Visit Estes Park
Visit Fort Collins

DELAWARE
HospitableMe Incorporated
Southern Delaware Tourism

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Central Photo Company

FLORIDA
A2Z Hospitality Management Company
Amelia Island CVB
Aurora Cruises and Travel LLC
Escape Coastal Resort
Evermore Orlando Resort
EW Bullock Associates
Excellent Vacation Homes
Expats Traveling Group, LLC
Experience Kissimmee
Florida's Sports Coast
Galaxy Vacations Inc
Global Hospitality Marketing Link
Go Fish Tourism + Business Events
GoPegasus
Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association
Greater Miami Convention & Visitor Bureau
Historic Tours of America
jbvacations.com, INC
K A Zwart Meetings Management
Miles Partnership
Newport Hospitality Group
OTS Globe - Americas
Paradise Advertising & Marketing
Sarasota Surf and Racquet Club
Schwinn Tours & Travel
SIBTMC
Travalco USA
Visit Florida Keys & Key West
Visit Orlando
Visit Tampa Bay
Women in Travel THRIVE

GEORGIA
Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
Esra Calvert Consulting
Etravels Everywhere
Explore Newnan-Coweta Inc
Journeys by Jean
Lake Lanier Convention & Visitors Bureau
Milledgeville-Baldwin County Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Pooler Chamber of Commerce
Tours Limited
Travel Spike
Visit Savannah

HAWAI'I
Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association
Polynesian Adventure

IDAHO
Four Stripes Consulting
Visit Coeur d'Alene

ILLINOIS
360 CHICAGO
Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Choose Chicago
Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Experience Champaign-Urbana
Explore Elgin Area
Heritage Corridor Destinations
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
Travel 100 Group
Underground Donut Tour

INDIANA
Bliss Travel Inc
Integrated Investment Solutions
Schahet Hotels, Inc.
Visit South Bend Mishawaka

IOWA
TravelSpike
Visit Quad Cities

KANSAS
RHW management
Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau
Visit Overland Park

KENTUCKY
Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission
Jackson WWS
JG DePete Aerospace Industry Solutons
Kentucky Travel Industry Associstion
Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau
VisitLEX

LOUISIANA
Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission
Louisiana Travel Association
New Orleans & Company
The Court of Two Sisters
Visit Baton Rouge
Visit Lake Charles
Visit Shreveport-Bossier

MARYLAND
Maryland SoccerPlex

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston Duck Tours
Cohen Strategic Alliances
DEMA PUBLIC RELATIONS
Kingfisher
Meet Boston
Tourism Cares
TourMappers North America LLC

MICHIGAN
Choose Lansing
Experience Grand Rapids
Gateway Travel Service
Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau
Holland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
TravelSpike
Traverse City Tourism
Visit Detroit

MINNESOTA
Bloomington Minnesota Travel & Tourism
Dreamscape Getaways
Meet Minneapolis
SearchWide Global

MISSISSIPPI
Coastal Mississippi Tourism
Mississippi Tourism Association
Visit Natchez

MISSOURI
Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and CVB
Explore St. Louis
Visit Kansas City
Visit Springfield MO

MONTANA
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Western Montana's Glacier Country

NEVADA
EAGLERIDER
Nevada Resort Association
Papillon Helicopters & Grand Canyon Scenic Airlines
Visit Carson Valley

NEW HAMPSHIRE
New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association
Ski New Hampshire
White Mountains Attractions Association

NEW JERSEY
Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority
Itaca Tours LLC
Morris County Tourism Bureau
New Jersey Campground Owners & Outdoor Lodging Association
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association
Sussex County Chamber Of Commerce
TravelAdvocates

NEW MEXICO
Open Range Consulting LLC
Visit Albuquerque

NEW YORK
Destination Niagara USA
Discover Albany
Event Leaders Exchange (ELX)
Fitzpatrick Hotels
Global Compass USA LLC t/a G2 Travel
Harlem One Stop Inc
Inside Out Tours
Jumbo Tours USA Inc.
MMGY Global
New York State Tourism Industry Association
NY Hilton Midtown
NYC Tourism + Conventions
NYS Destination Marketing Organizations Association
Oneida County Tourism
Parclane

RTT Services LLC
Samantha Brown Media Inc.
The Wallace /The Lucerne Hotel
This Is Cooperstown
Uniworld Travel
Visit Finger Lakes
Visit Syracuse

NORTH CAROLINA
Corporate Travel Management
Guilford County / Greensboro Tourism Development Authority
The Historic Brookstown Inn
Visit Raleigh

NORTH DAKOTA
Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau
North Dakota Tourism
Visit Minot

OHIO
CDC Gaming Reports Inc.
Central Travel & Ticket, Inc.
Enjoy Oxford
Logan County Chamber of Commerce
Longwoods International
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce

OKLAHOMA
Chickasha Economic Development Council
Jenks Chamber of Commerce
Oklahoma Travel Industry Association
Visit Enid

OREGON
Around Portland Tours
Coos Bay-North Bend-Charleston Visitor & Convention Bureau
Explore Tualatin Valley

PENNSYLVANIA
Cashman & Associates
Green Book Experience
Museum of the American Revolution
Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau
Visit Philadelphia
VisitPITTSBURGH

RHODE ISLAND
Discover Newport

SOUTH CAROLINA
Bulldog Tours
Capital Vacations
CCNB
Cherry Grove Pier
City of North Myrtle Beach
Dagwood's Deli & Sports Bar
Destination North Myrtle Beach
Elliott Beach Rentals
Explore Charleston
GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Gilmore Entertainment Group, LLC
JCP Advertising / Marketing / Business Solutions
Laudisi Enterprises
Life's Journey Travel LLC
Live Nation House of Blues
Logan's Roadhouse
LUVE IT LLC
McMillan Real Estate, Inc.
North Strand Helping Hand
North Strand Nissan
Pegasus Realty
Pilot Club of North Myrtle Beach
Sand Dollar Media
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
SEA Server
Thomas Beach Vacations
Thomas Real Estate inc
Tilghman Beach and Golf Resort
Waccamaw Publishers/My Horry News

SOUTH DAKOTA
Americal Inc.
Black Hills Adventure Tours
Experience Sioux Falls
Hill City area Chamber of Commerce
Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau
LIV Hospitality
Ramkota Companies
Rapid City Regional Airport
Redlin Art Center

Reptile Gardens
ROYAL F KOCH AGENCY, INC
South Dakota Outfitters Unlimited
Tourism Coalition of South Dakota
Travel South Dakota
Venerts Hotel Management
Visit Rapid City

TENNESSEE
Bristol TN/VA Chamber of Commerce
Chartwell Hospitality
Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism
Sevierville Chamber of Commerce

TEXAS
ABC Global Services, LLC, a subsidiary of CCRA International, LLC
AJR Media Group
Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Bandera County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Bandera County, Texas
CCRA International, Inc
Fagron North America
Fox Travel
Houston Airport System
Houston First Corporation
Irving (TX) Convention & Visitors Bureau
Port Aransas Tourism Bureau & Chamber of Commerce
Silver Ventures
Tejas Rodeo Company
Texas Travel Alliance
Visit Austin
Visit College Station
Visit Corpus Christi
Visit Dallas
Visit Galveston
Visit Lubbock
Visit San Antonio
Visit San Marcos
Worldwide Cruises and Tours

UTAH
Bryce Canyon Country
Cable Mountain Lodge
Cache Valley Visitors Bureau
Love Communications
Ruby's Inn Inc.
Ski Utah
Utah Tourism Industry Association
Wittwer Hospitality
Zartico, Inc

VIRGINIA
Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB)
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy
Cruise Planners
Incentive Research Foundation
JEMS Hospitality Group
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council)

WASHINGTON
Prestige Global Meeting Source
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
State of Washington Tourism
Visit Seattle
Visit Tri-Cities

WEST VIRGINIA
Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.
National Travel
Putnam County Tourism
Visit Southern WV

WISCONSIN
Destination Madison
Destinations Wisconsin
Discover Green Bay
Explore La Crosse
Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau
Gateway Technical College
Visit Milwaukee
Wisconsin Business Travel Association

WYOMING
Visit Cheyenne