



March 24, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing today to respectfully request that you clarify that the United States is open for business and encourage secure foreign travel into the country.

The American Bus Association (ABA) represents private and over-the-road passenger motorcoach operators who transport the public and provide in excess of 600 million passenger trips annually. In addition, our tour operator members provide trips to destinations throughout North America to all destinations. The ABA also has nearly 3,000 travel businesses who rely on the travelers our bus and tour operators bring them. These include: theaters, hotels, restaurants, shopping destinations, convention and visitors' bureaus and other attractions and destinations.

The Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) is the non-profit, professional trade association that promotes student & youth travel and seeks to foster integrity and professionalism among student and youth travel service providers. SYTA is "The Voice of Student and Youth Travel.®" Our members understand that travel is a key part of a complete education, and are committed to providing student and youth travelers with safe, rich, and rewarding experiences. SYTA represents over 950 businesses and 1,500 student and youth travel professionals and serves the needs of 70,000 plus traveling teachers.

According to the National Travel and Tourism office, in 2016 alone, international visitors spent \$246 billion on travel to and tourism-related activities within the United States – that is \$673 million per day.

We have seen recently that Executive Order 13780, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States", is having the unintended consequence of deterring overall travel and tourism. The travel patterns over the last few months, have significantly impacted student travel that was previously planned into the United States from around the world and specifically from Canada.

For example, the Toronto District School Board, Canada's largest school district with over 550 schools and a \$3 billion annual budget under its jurisdiction, announced on March 23, 2017 that they would no longer book student and staff trips to the United States, citing the uncertainty surrounding the Executive Order.

The Toronto District School Board announcement is just another example of groups cancelling their travel to the United States. We are hearing almost daily from travel and tourism members in every part of the country, who are telling us that their visitors from every part of the world and specifically from Canada are cancelling trips.

The American Bus Association and the Student Youth Travel Association understand the Administration's commitment and responsibility to increase our national security. While we support security measures, it is important for the United States to welcome student and adult travelers from all countries. The experience of travel outside one's own immediate environment can expand a person's understanding of people who differ from them and increase empathy for others. It is also essential to reiterate the importance of tour and travel – including foreign travel – to our national economy. ABA and SYTA ask that you reassure our friends at home and abroad that the United States is ready to accept all secure foreign travel into the country.

ABA and SYTA support US Travel Association's message that, "However the issue plays out in the legal system, the American travel community believes the Trump administration's visa security efforts should include a clear statement that legitimate international business and leisure travelers remain welcomed and valued by the United States".

Sincerely,



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Cc: The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary | U.S. Department of Commerce