

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-222, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As Congress considers various tax proposals, we write in support of making Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act grants exempt from federal taxation in the first available legislative vehicle. The CERTS program enacted in December of 2020 has provided much needed relief for the motorcoach, school bus, and passenger vessel industries devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Shuttered Venues Operators Grant (SVOG), and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) grants were all made non-taxable while preserving the ability to deduct normal business expenses. The CERTS Act grants, however, are taxable. We believe this was an oversight and request your support for aligning the tax treatment of the relief provided to the covered CERTS industries with that provided other similarly impacted sectors. These funds were intended to be emergency relief and should be treated the same as other coronavirus relief funds, which are exempt from tax while preserving the ability to deduct business expenses. This clarification would help simplify tax compliance for our member companies, many of which are small and family businesses, as well as provide parity with other industries.

These industries provide essential transportation services to the public. Their operations were the first to shut down in 2020 and will be among the last to fully recover. The CERTS Act grants, while extremely beneficial, only replaced about 20% of lost revenue from 2020. With the Delta variant leading many commuters and travelers to continue to stay at home, the economic impacts on these industries will be prolonged. Many operators do not expect to return to “normal” business until sometime in 2023. Requiring these struggling businesses to pay back a large portion of these emergency grants in taxes will further delay their recovery.

As such, we request that you include a fix in the next legislative vehicle to assure that CERTS grant funding is exempt from the grantee’s taxable income. Thank you for your continued commitment to relief for hard-hit industries and to our economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress

/s/

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

/s/

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

/s/

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

/s/

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

/s/

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/

John R. Carter
Member of Congress

/s/

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

/s/

Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

/s/
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

/s/
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

/s/
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/
Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

/s/
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

/s/
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/
Dr. Andy Harris
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

/s/
John Katko
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Kim
Member of Congress

/s/
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

/s/
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

/s/
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

/s/
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

/s/
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

/s/
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

/s/
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

/s/
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

/s/
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

/s/
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/
David E. Price
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Reed
Member of Congress

/s/
Hal Rogers
Member of Congress

/s/
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Posey
Member of Congress

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Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

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Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

/s/
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

/s/
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress

/s/
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

/s/
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

/s/
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/

Glenn “GT” Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

/s/

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

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Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

/s/

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/

Don Young
Member of Congress