March 11, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As strong supporters of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, we write to urge you to include replenishment of the Small Business Administration’s Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) in any upcoming supplemental legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nearly $28.6 billion of economic relief was provided to more than 101,000 restaurants in every community across the country in the American Rescue Plan Act (Pub. L. 117-2). Critically, the Small Business Administration (SBA) prioritized small and medium-sized businesses, with more than half of the RRF grants totaling fewer than $150,000. These grants kept businesses open, people employed, and families stable. Despite the program’s success, more than 177,000 food and beverage establishments applied for nearly $44 billion in funding but received nothing. The federal government cannot leave these small businesses and their workers out in the cold.

These entities are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the survival of these small businesses on the line every day. Restaurants are still down nearly one million jobs compared to pre-pandemic levels and at least 90,000 restaurants have already permanently closed. Recent surveys clearly demonstrate that those who did not receive a RRF grant are more likely to lay off workers, more likely to be in danger of filing for bankruptcy, and are more likely to have received or anticipate receiving an eviction notice. Simply put, the cornerstone of our communities will not survive unless Congress replenishes the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

More than 300 members of the House of Representatives have cosponsored legislation to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund with $60 billion in additional funding.

We can ensure these small businesses get the relief they need in any upcoming supplemental legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic by replenishing this program to meet the current need. We look forward to partnering with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Alfred  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Sharice Davids
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress
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Radewagen  
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett  
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Mike Quigley  
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Jamie Raskin  
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Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross  
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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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Bobby L. Rush  
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
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Tim Ryan  
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Michael F. Q. San Nicolas  
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John P. Sarbanes  
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David G. Valadao  
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Juan Vargas  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

/s/ Andre Carson  
Member of Congress