

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

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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  
Choice Hotels  
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

**HAWAII**

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 Solutions  
Kentucky Travel Industry Association  
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  
Parlane

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