April 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer:

I am writing on behalf of the Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC) regarding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. We strongly support, and sincerely appreciate, Congress’ efforts to provide critical capital to help America’s small businesses and their employees weather this unprecedented crisis.

We have already seen real world examples of these programs helping businesses keep their employees on payroll and avoid defaulting on their debt obligations. However, on the other hand, we have also had reports from a significant number of small businesses that have struggled to access these loans – from locating a lending institution that will accept their application to navigating the application process itself. Additionally, the SBA has imposed limits to EIDL loan funding that are significantly below what was provided by statute – rendering the loans insufficient to provide meaningful help to the vast majority of small businesses. Finally, our members, most of which are 501(c)(6) organizations, have themselves been excluded from accessing the PPP funding, which is causing them hardship.

The funds appropriated for the PPP and EIDL programs are already exhausted. In the face of this, we urge Congress to take swift action to secure the vision and intent of the PPP and EIDL by authorizing additional funding for these programs and to expand PPP eligibility to 501(c)(6) organizations.

America’s small businesses and the groups that support them will play a critical role in stabilizing and rebuilding our economy when we emerge from this crisis. However, they can only do so if they have the resources to survive the next weeks and months.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and stand ready to provide any additional information or assistance that you or your staff may require.

Sincerely,

Paula Calimafde  
President and General Counsel
AICC – The Independent Packaging Association
AmericanHort
American Moving and Storage Association
American Pet Products Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Subcontractors Association
America’s Small Business Development Centers
Commercial Food Equipment Service Association
Door Security & Safety Professionals
Electronics Representatives Association
Foodservice Consultants Society International The Americas
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Independent Community Bankers of America
Manufacturers’ Agents Association For The Foodservice Industry
National Apartment Association
National Association of the Remodeling Industry
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association
National Marine Distributors Association
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association
Pet Industry Distributors Association
Petroleum Equipment Institute
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Power-Motion Technology Representatives Association
Promotional Products Association International
Saturation Mailers Coalition
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textile Association
Small Business Council of America, Inc.
Society of American Florists
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association
Textile Care Allied Trades Association
Tire Industry Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
United Veterinary Services Association
Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association