

MONTEREY COUNTY



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December 17, 2020

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act (H.R. 8802) – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act (H.R. 8802). This bipartisan legislation would provide comprehensive relief and recovery measures for the convention, trade show, entertainment, travel and hospitality industries and their workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a tremendous challenge to both public health and the economy, and no industry in the U.S. has been more severely impacted than the travel and hospitality sector. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in travel and tourism has fallen by 23.9% across the nation this year.

As you know, Monterey County has been and continues to be heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, and the County's hospitality, travel, and tourism sectors have been especially hard hit. Monterey County has long been a tourist destination, attracting 4.6 million visitors annually and generating \$2.8 billion in spending which supports 25,220 jobs. These industries are the economic engine of our county and our communities, and the incredible challenges they are now facing due to COVID-19 demand attention from Congress.

The Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act would stimulate the economy by creating new recovery incentives for hospitality and trade shows, enhance the employee retention tax credit to help maintain worker connections to their employer, and provide recovery incentives for middle class families to jumpstart travel when safe.

We greatly appreciate your cosponsoring this important legislation. Thank you for your continued leadership and support for important economic recovery legislation that will benefit Monterey County and the nation.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Kamala Harris