December 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer and McCarthy:

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to ravage the foodservice industry, I am writing to urge you to pass legislation to provide badly needed support to the many foodservice businesses facing extremely difficult economic circumstances. As cases continue to rise, states and localities are imposing new shutdowns and/or capacity limits that are adding new challenges to an already suffering industry.

A recent survey by the National Restaurant Association provides a stark view of the consequences for the foodservice industry. Among their findings:

- 17% of restaurants, more than 110,000, are completely closed
- These closures represent an increase of more than 10,000 in just the last three months
- 58% of full-service restaurant operators expect continued furloughs and layoffs of their employees for at least the next three months

When the crisis began in mid-March, Congress acted quickly through the CARES Act to create the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and provide small businesses with critical support to help them remain in business. Unfortunately, that program has expired and Congress has failed to pass any additional aid in the more than eight months since the CARES Act. The foodservice industry needs help now and Congress must act to reauthorize the PPP program and permit second draw loans to businesses facing at least a 25% loss in revenue.

A new stimulus package should also:

- Include payments for inventory, raw materials and supplies as allowable and forgivable uses of PPP funds
- Permit PPP borrowers to continue to deduct ordinary and necessary expenses from their taxes
- Provide liability protection for companies that have complied with federal, state and local health laws

The pandemic has lasted far longer than was anticipated when Congress passed the CARES Act and businesses throughout the country continue to suffer. Congress must act now to provide relief to the foodservice industry and other businesses. We cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Allen
President and CEO