

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

As we work to ensure the strength and growth of our country's critical travel and tourism industry, we urge you to request the President nominate an Assistant Secretary of Travel and Tourism within the Department of Commerce. During your confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation you committed to work with Congress to quickly fill the position with a qualified nominee.

The travel and tourism sector has long been a cornerstone of the U.S. economy. In 2023, it generated approximately \$2.6 trillion in economic output, supported more than 15 million workers, and directly employed 8 million people. Travel and tourism also lower the trade deficit and generate \$84 billion in state and local tax revenue. Ahead of a mega decade of events that will bring millions of visitors to the United States, including the FIFA World Cup and Summer and Winter Olympics, filling the Assistant Secretary position will be vital to the success of this key sector of the economy.

The passage of the Visit America Act was a critical step toward addressing the devastating impact of the pandemic on this vital industry. The success of this legislation, however, hinges on effective and expeditious implementation and coordination at the federal level.

The Assistant Secretary of Travel and Tourism position, as established in the Visit America Act, is essential for driving a cohesive federal response to the challenges facing the industry. This role will lead a focused effort to grow the travel sector, ensuring that we can recover from its decline during the pandemic and promote a path to long-term expansion. With millions of jobs at stake and the potential for significant economic benefits to small businesses in every congressional district, it is imperative that this position is filled promptly.

By prioritizing a nomination for this position, we can ensure that the federal government is fully engaged in revitalizing the travel and tourism industry, fostering collaboration with the private sector, and ultimately delivering significant benefits to our economy. The United States is the only member of the G20 international economic forum that does not have a high-ranking official focused on the tourism sector.

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Thank you for considering this urgent request and for focusing on this essential sector and the millions of Americans who rely on it for their livelihoods. Please let us know how we can further assist on this specific matter and on any other issues that can promote travel to the United States.

Sincerely,



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



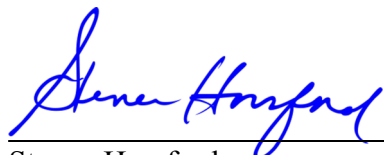
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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



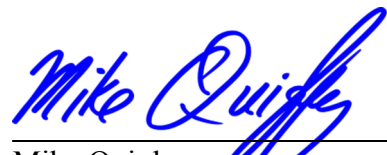
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress