



December 3, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA), thank you for your steadfast commitment to ensuring America's hospitality and tourism industries remain top in the world. As a pillar of the U.S. economy, the hotel industry not only creates jobs but also delivers essential services that boost local economies, foster tourism, and facilitate business and leisure travel. With limited weeks remaining before the end of the 118th Congress, Congressional action is needed on key pieces of legislation to ensure this economic momentum continues.

AHLA is the leading voice representing every segment of the hotel industry including major chains, independent hotels, management companies, REITs, bed and breakfasts, industry partners, and more. In 2024, America's 64,000 hotels – including 33,000 small businesses – support 8.3 million American jobs. However, rising operational costs, ongoing labor shortages, and the looming expiration of federal tax cuts in 2025 threaten the industry's growth and long-term stability.

As you prioritize legislation for the final weeks of the 118th Congress, we respectfully urge Congress to prioritize passage of the following bipartisan pieces of legislation:

- ***The No Hidden FEES Act of 2023 (H.R. 6543)/Hotel Fees Transparency Act of 2024 (S. 2498)***. The hotel industry prides itself on offering an array of amenities and services to ensure guests have what they want and need from their travel experience. Transparency and guest satisfaction are at the core of the industry's business model. It is critical that guests have the same expectation of fee transparency and disclosure wherever they shop for and book hotel rooms. Ensuring

guests have all the necessary information up-front and any mandatory fees included in the price they see prior to booking their rooms is central to the hotel industry's model and to consumer satisfaction.

- ***The Closing the Workforce Gap Act of 2024 (H.R. 7574)***. H-2B temporary worker visas are critically important to the hotel and lodging industry by allowing hotels and resorts, particularly in rural seasonal destinations, to fill seasonal roles. This legislation would replace the arbitrary annual cap with a new, needs-based system for allocating visas, which in turn provides the certainty employers need to effectively hire workers.
- ***The HOTEL Act of 2024 (H.R. 9681)***. This legislation recognizes the crucial role hotels play in the fight against human trafficking by encouraging federal workers traveling for business to stay at hotels with anti-human trafficking programs. To qualify under the bill, hotel employee training must be developed in consultation with either a state government, human trafficking survivors, survivor-led anti-trafficking organizations, or a nationally recognized organization with expertise in this area.
- ***The Red Tape Reduction Act (S. 1725)***. This common-sense legislation adjusts 1099-K reporting requirements to capture cumulative transactions exceeding \$10,000 or more than 50 transactions. This compromise position avoids placing burdensome requirements on an overly broad group of taxpayers while also accounting for the substantial sums of unreported income within the short-term rental industry.

Thank you for your consideration of our industry's viewpoint. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rosanna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rosanna Maietta
President & CEO
American Hotel & Lodging Association