



March 23, 2020

Dear Representative Rob Wittman,

The marina and boatyard industry, like many others, expect to face economic hardship during this extended crisis caused by the coronavirus. The marina industry is made up primarily of small businesses, many of which are "mom and pop" establishments that are cornerstones of their communities. They are a source of employment not only for a full-time skilled workforce but for part-time hardworking people, who may also be attending a trade or other type of school from high school to graduate.

The Association of Marina Industries (AMI) is a non-profit membership association representing marina and boatyard owners and operators. We have over 1000 members who support over 26,000 employees and over 1 million boaters, who access the water through our member facilities. The marina industry supports 105,000 jobs and is a sector of a broader, recreational boating industry representing an additional 600,000 employees.

Below are some requests from our industry:

- **Approve the Treasury Department's proposed Small Business interruption loans.** Approval provides small businesses with the capital to support their employees who may need to utilize emergency personal-time-off and other liquidity issues.
- **Implement an income tax holiday for small businesses.** Implementing an income tax holiday provides liquidity and reduces the strain on business owners and employees who are facing layoffs.
- **Make greater availability low- or no-interest loans for small businesses and cut through red tape.** Small Business Administration (SBA) benefits will be essential to the survival of small businesses, but the administration of loans needs to be efficient so that businesses can receive quick relief.
- **Expand unemployment benefits to contract workers.** Many marinas and boatyards supplement their workforce with contract employees. We must meet their family's needs during this time when projects dry up, and contracts are not available.
- **Expand unemployment benefits to that those filing receive 100% of regular pay.** Many marinas employ minimum to low-wage workers. It is important to our industry that laid-off workers receive regular pay, earning less than puts them at economic risk.
- **Keep outdoor areas open and accessible if it can be done safely and within CDC guidelines.** Outdoor recreation businesses – and the communities they support – rely on access to public lands and waters to survive. As long as these areas can be kept open and in compliance with CDC guidelines, federal agencies should avoid their closure. Private partners can be of great assistance in this matter and where appropriate, federal agencies should work with – and solicit help and support from – their partners before making closure decisions.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors for the Association of Marina Industries

Please direct any questions to Eric Kretsch (Legislative Director, Association of Marina Industries) at 202-350-9623, ekretsch@marinaassociation.org.

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