August 11, 2020

Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kamala Harris
California State Senate
501 Street, Suite 7-800
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jackie Speier
US House Representative
2465 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Save our Stages Act and RESTART Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris, Representative Speier,

On behalf of the San Francisco Travel Association, thank you for your continued efforts around COVID-19 relief. I write today in support of the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) and urge your support for S. 4258/HR 7806, the Save our Stages Act, introduced by Senators Cornyn and Klobuchar, and S3184/HR7481, the RESTART Act, introduced by Senators Young and Bennet in the Senate and Representatives Golden and Kelly in the House. These two pieces of legislation would ensure the survival of independent venues across the nation.

Every music venue is part of a community’s cultural fabric and these venues help make San Francisco a unique, vibrant world-class city. Our City’s music venues face the serious threat of shutting down permanently. Unlike other industries that have been able to adopt new delivery or curb-side services, music venues rely solely on full capacity physical attendance to make ends meet. Music venues will likely be some of the last businesses to reopen and even when they do, the industry will face immense struggles to break even, as social distancing protocols will drastically reduce attendance.

Prior to the pandemic, San Francisco welcomed over 26 million visitors who spent $11 Billion at restaurants, hotels, and cultural attractions, including music venues. San Francisco’s tourism industry generated over $771 Million in tax revenue that supports critical city services. Relief for our music venues now helps ensure that San Francisco and other cities can remain attractive destinations for visitors to return, which will help our local economies recover.

On behalf of the San Francisco Travel Association, I urge you to support these crucial pieces of legislation to provide relief to our independent music venues to make it through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Joe D’Alessandro
President and CEO