

United States Senate

September 27, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to request that the Department of Transportation (DOT) fulfill the requirements of Section 25018 of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58) to update its National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan and develop an immediate-term and long-term strategy for DOT and other agencies to use infrastructure to revive and support the travel and tourism industry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) into law. The new law includes our bipartisan *TOURISM Act*, requiring DOT to update the National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan within 180 days of enactment of the law. On May 3, eleven days before the statutory deadline, you testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation about the work being done at DOT to fulfill this mandate. We were pleased to hear that your team was participating in the Tourism Policy Council and helping to develop a new National Travel and Tourism Strategy. You also mentioned during the May 3 hearing that you were planning to integrate the National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan, required by the IIJA, with the National Travel and Tourism Strategy upon its completion. We thank you for coordinating with the Department of Commerce ahead of the release of their National Travel and Tourism Strategy on June 6, 2022, which the Commerce Committee reviewed during a hearing held by the Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion Subcommittee in July.


Unfortunately, while it has now been well over 300 days since the IIJA was signed into law, and more than 100 days since the Department of Commerce released its National Travel and Tourism Strategy, we have not yet seen an updated National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan from DOT. The travel and tourism industry is the cornerstone of many of our states' economies, responsible for millions of good-paying jobs across a number of industries. It is imperative that DOT promptly update and release the National Travel and Tourism Infrastructure Strategic Plan in order to meet the needs of the travel and tourism industry and the requirements that Congress directed in enacted law.

We therefore request a briefing within 30 days of receiving this letter on the progress you are making to update the Strategic Plan, including a proposed timeline for when this may be released and an explanation for why the Department has missed the statutory deadline by more than four

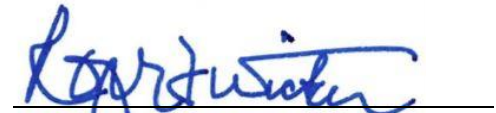
months. We trust that DOT is committed to supporting the travel and tourism industry and its dynamic workforce, but the Department still must fulfill this important mandate, as required by law.

We look forward to hearing from you about the forthcoming updated Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,



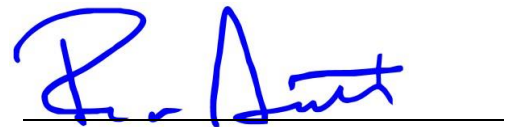
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



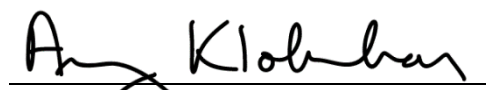
Roger Wicker
United States Senator




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