



SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIAL

If you reside in a state/community that continues to have restrictions on large gatherings, please consider sending a direct communication to your state elected officials, such as your [Governor](#) or [Mayor](#). It is also helpful to reinforce the importance of this reopening with your [Members of Congress](#).

Localize the content below with data specific to your state and cite examples of lost group and convention business to provide context to the impact of these remaining restrictions. If you need state economic impact data on business travel, meetings and events, please contact Nicole Porter, nporter@ustravel.org.

When sending, also consider collecting multiple signatories from your state/community.

Dear **[Elected Official]**:

The COVID-19 pandemic decimated the travel industry more than any other, with direct travel jobs accounting for 65% of all jobs lost to the pandemic in the United States. In fact, the industry lost [3 million](#) direct travel jobs and [\\$492 billion](#) due to decreased travel spending in 2020 alone. In **[your city / state]** alone, we have lost **[local impact figures]**.

With over 62% of American adults having received at least one shot of a vaccine, the continued efforts to get more people vaccinated and the significant decrease in infections, coupled with scientifically proven safety-practices, leisure travel is poised to do well this summer.

However, business travel lags significantly far behind due to broad and outdated restrictions on large in-person meetings and events in many places throughout the U.S. And while many states and localities are beginning to reopen, there is confusion and inconsistencies that remain. The pandemic forced many professional meetings and events (PMEs) to be postponed, go virtual or be canceled entirely, such as **[local example]**, causing untold hardship within the **[state/ community]**. Quite simply put, the overall U.S. economy cannot recover without restoring the travel industry and getting business travel and events back more quickly will be critical to shortening the recovery.

PMEs differ from informal social gatherings because they are controlled environments with access limited to screened guests and a host of multi-layered, scientifically-proven safety measures in effect. A recent analysis from the Ohio State University (OSU) confirms that it is possible to resume in-person PME—highlighting the science behind the safety measures that have become standard throughout the industry. OSU researchers concluded that this layered approach to risk mitigation reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission and increases the health and safety of all attendees, including those staffing the event.

Furthermore, according to scientific modeling by the Exhibitions and Conferences Alliance and Epistemix, in-person PME pose a near-zero (0.001%) risk of COVID-19 transmission to attendees—even for large events—which is less likely than a fatal bicycle accident (0.03%), according to the National Safety Council. Beyond projections, PMEs are happening in other states, like the World of Concrete Annual Convention of 40,000 people in Las Vegas this June, with no known reports of infection.

The science is clear. With best practices in place, PMEs can be held safely. We know a lot more than we did at the start of the pandemic, but **[state/local]** capacity restrictions have not kept pace. It's time to lift the remaining restrictions on PMEs and get back to business, distinguishing them from other large gatherings.

With so much at stake for **[state/community]**, we need to lift these restrictions now. The travel community is counting on you to help.

Respectfully,

[Signatories]