



May 16, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitchel McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA EMAIL

Re: U.S. Small Business Administration Restaurant Revitalization Fund

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leaders Schumer, McConnell and McCarthy, and Administrator Guzman:

I respectfully write your offices on behalf of the Association for a Better Long Island (“ABLI”), Long Island’s leading economic development organization, regarding the U.S. Small Business Administration (“SBA”) Restaurant Revitalization Fund (“RRF”). We applaud and fully support your efforts to pass the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* and its intent to expeditiously provide funds to struggling restaurant owners who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABLI is advised that the RRF has received more than 266,000 applications representing over \$65 billion in requested funds. Additionally, the RRF has received more than 147,000 applications from women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged business owners, requesting a total of \$29 billion in relief funds. The American Rescue Plan allocated the RRF program only \$28.6B in funds. This data is extremely concerning as, currently, the RRF will not even be able to cover the requested funds in the first tranche of applicants if all applications are funded. There will certainly not be nearly enough funds to cover the additional \$36 billion in requested RRF funding.

The nation’s restaurant and food service industry is one of the most severely impacted sectors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, in New York State these businesses were actually mandated by executive order to shut down for many

months. With our restaurant and food service industry employing hundreds of thousands of individuals, many who rely on their wages week to week to survive, it is imperative

that the federal government increase or reappropriation funding for the RRF program. Only through this initiative will these hard-working employees be able to effectively recover from a pandemic induced economic crisis.

ABLI urges Congress and SBA to increase and/or reappropriation funds so that there is ample funding to address the 266,000 applications representing over \$65 billion in requested funds

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Strober', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island

cc: U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. House of Representatives Long Island Delegation