

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 25, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Trump, Secretary Noem, and Secretary Rubio:

I write to express concern regarding the impact your administration's aggressive, chaotic, and restrictive immigration policies are having on the nation's tourism and travel industry. A boon for the U.S. economy, international tourists spend billions in local communities across the country each year. This spending supports American jobs in the hospitality, restaurant, bartending, tour, event, retail, and airline industries. If these policies continue, small businesses, hard-working American workers, and middle-class families will suffer.

The U.S. travel and tourism market contributed \$2.9 trillion in total economic output in 2024 and supported 15 million jobs—representing stability for small businesses and middle-class American families.¹ A significant portion of this activity is driven by international visitors, representing \$181 billion in spending in 2024. However, your administration has implemented a series of policies that have put this prosperity in jeopardy. These policies include a new fee on tourist visas, making it one of the highest visitor fees in the world;² a partial or full travel ban on 19 countries;³ more aggressive and frequent searches of international visitors at airports and other ports of entry;⁴ significant visa processing delays;⁵ and aggressive immigration raids across

¹ "U.S. Economic Impact of Travel 2024," U.S. Travel Association. <https://impact.ustravel.org/national>.

² Doyinsola Oladipo, "New \$250 visa fee risks deepening US travel slump," Reuters, August 30, 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/new-250-visa-fee-risks-deepening-us-travel-slump-2025-08-30/>.

³ "Trump's 2025 Travel Ban: Who Is Affected and What It Could Cost the U.S. Economy," American Immigration Council, August 6, 2025. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/report/trump-2025-travel-ban/>.

⁴ Tarini Parti and Michelle Hackman, "Border Agents Use More Aggressive Tactics to Question Visa Holders, Tourists," The Wall Street Journal, March 20, 2025. https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/border-agents-use-more-aggressive-tactics-to-question-visa-holders-tourists-067afb4?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAhMr4t_uzRwB0QoQLRr-i1H_3gtQpEVgQMo9lk77HbkIzGnnQqMEWgOQROL30%3D&gaa_ts=687f8bdd&gaa_sig=Vivn3PYM8rYl8YJw-q16nfAnWf_F44nKuaiyaR1mYoyjnzD5Yg4KKiuWczxXTE0kRe3Wu5gNTWWkgwCLobKP0A%3D%3D.

⁵ "Global Visa Wait Times," U.S. Department of State, November 20, 2025. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/global-visa-wait-times.html>.

the country. These actions have signaled to the world that the U.S. is closed for business, and the consequences speak for themselves.

Since the beginning of 2025, countries across the world, including the UK, Canada, France, and Germany, have issued travel warnings for individuals considering visiting the U.S.⁶ The World Travel & Tourism Council reports that international visitor spending in the U.S. is on track to decline by \$12.5 billion—a nearly 7 percent drop—compared to last year.⁷ Perhaps even more alarming, the U.S. is the only country among 184 economies analyzed projected to see international visitor spending decline in 2025,⁸ and the head of the U.S. Travel Association recently [testified](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee that the U.S. was no longer the top global tourist destination.⁹ These trends are even more concerning when you consider that the U.S. is preparing to co-host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which is projected to generate \$47 billion in economic output.¹⁰ If the current policies continue, we risk squandering this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

In light of these obvious harms, I strongly urge the administration to reconsider the policies that are causing serious damage to international tourism and the economy. If the U.S. continues to be an unwelcoming destination for visitors, hard-working Americans, small businesses, and middle-class families will pay the price.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruben Gallego". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruben" and last name "Gallego" clearly distinguishable.

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

⁶ Rachel Chang, “The Full List of Countries That Have Updated Their US Travel Guidance,” Condé Nast Traveler, July 28, 2025. <https://www.cntraveler.com/story/which-countries-have-issued-travel-advisories-for-the-us-2>

⁷ “U.S Economy Set To Lose \$12.5BN In International Traveler Spend this year,” World Travel & Tourism Council, May 14, 2025. <https://wttc.org/news/us-economy-set-to-lose-12-5bn-in-international-traveler-spend-this-year>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Adam Levin and Jill Wilson, “Recent Developments in International Tourism to the United States,” Congressional Research Service (CRS), July 31, 2025. https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IN/HTML/IN12589.html.

¹⁰ “FIFA-WTO study estimates USD 47 billion economic output from FIFA Club World Cup™ and FIFA World Cup™ in the US,” Inside FIFA, April 4, 2025. <https://inside.fifa.com/organisation/media-releases/fifa-wto-study-estimates-usd-47-billion-economic-output-from-fifa-club-world>.