

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to underscore the importance of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (TTAB) and encourage the Department of Commerce to reconvene the Board and resume regular meetings as soon as possible. For more than two decades, TTAB has provided a valuable forum for leaders across the travel and tourism industry to share their insight into the challenges facing the sector and provide input on federal tourism policy. Given this vital role, we appreciate the Department's ongoing work to renew the TTAB's charter and appoint new Board members, but we look forward to seeing that progress continue and actually having the new Board meet.

The travel and tourism industry is a vital part of our economy, supporting millions of jobs for Americans and sustaining many of our nation's communities, making travel slowdowns all the more devastating. As the TTAB itself has noted, the U.S. experienced a 2.4 percent decline in international inbound travel for 2024,¹ yet even with this decrease in inbound travel, international traveler spending still accounted for \$175 billion in 2025.² This kind of economic impact is why the TTAB's work matters: policymakers need to hear from industry leaders when making decisions that could have broad economic consequences, and without that input, legislators and the Administration risk making decisions without a full understanding of how they could affect the travel and tourism industry.

During your confirmation process, you voiced your support for efforts that promote travel and tourism to the United States.³ Holding regular TTAB meetings — as the Board has traditionally done in past years — would go a long way towards advancing those efforts by bringing together voices from various parts of the industry: hotels, tourist destinations, direct marketing organizations, attractions, travel advisors, labor unions, credit card transfer partners, and other tourism-related businesses. Hearing from multiple perspectives at once can help the Department understand what priorities are shared across the industry and what issues require the greatest attention. The TTAB's charter calls for the Board to meet at least twice each year, but the Board has not met since October

¹ <https://www.ustravel.org/research/travel-forecasts>

² <https://www.ustravel.org/research/travel-forecasts>

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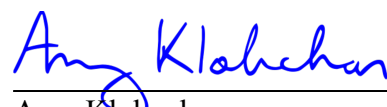
https://www.commerce.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/2.2.25%20Lutnick_REP%20QFRS%20%28Finalized%20Responses%29.pdf#page=35

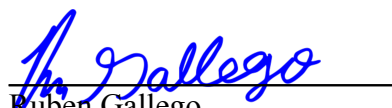
2024⁴. We are encouraged to know that the Department is now working to renew the TTAB's charter, but we urge you to see that process through and restore the Board to regular operation as soon as possible. We also ask that you keep Congress updated as you move forward with this work.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your continued commitment to supporting travel and tourism and would like to work with you as these efforts continue.

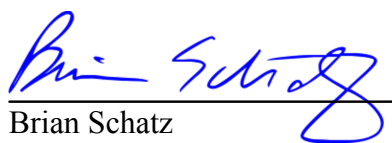
Sincerely,


Jacky Rosen
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

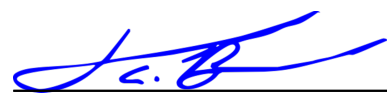

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United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

⁴ <https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/apex/FACACommitteeLevelReportAsPDF?id=a10t0000001gzmvAAA&utm>