



April 4, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

We understand that both the House and the Senate may soon consider floor votes on measures to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). This news cannot come at a more critical time for many in our industry.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, while the rest of the economy continues to quickly add jobs, restaurant industry job growth in the first quarter of 2022 was the smallest since 2020. On the business side, real sales at restaurants in January were lower than volumes posted in each of the 10 months leading up to the pandemic.

For the 177,000 restaurants that are still awaiting RRF support, these challenges are compounded by more than six months of competitive disadvantages these restaurants face from those that received an RRF grant. Our national survey of restaurant operators found that 96% of RRF recipients said the grant made it more likely that they would be able to stay in business; 92% said the grant helped them pay expenses or debt that had accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic.

With the looming threat of another variant and growing challenges of inflation for both operators and consumers, the economic boost RRF will provide for those 177,000 restaurants would reach far into our communities. This should be the driving factor in bipartisan support for replenishing the RRF. These restaurants fighting for survival cannot go it alone any longer, and should not be treated as a spot in the rear-view mirror of Congress.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting restaurants in your local communities and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sean Kennedy
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs