(Date)

Dear (Enter Name of MP),

As a member of the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA), and as your constituent, I am writing to ask the Canadian government to extend the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for the travel industry, Travel Agencies and Travel Agents to counter the continuation of government travel advisories recommending Canadians “Avoid all non-essential Travel outside of Canada” and “Avoid all Cruise Travel.”

While we appreciate the need for continued action to limit the COVID-19 spread, travel advisories coupled with the now extended ban of cruise ships in Canadian waters, are another blow to the Canadian travel industry. Our industry has been one of the hardest hit during the pandemic and as economies across the country begin to re-open, the travel advisories, physical distance and mandatory self-isolation/quarantine measures after travel will prevent retail travel businesses that same opportunity.

The travel industry was affected very early by the COVID-19 health crisis due to government travel advisories, and many travel agents spent the first several weeks of the pandemic voluntarily helping Canadians return home. With a near total loss of revenue for the Canadian travel industry, Travel Agencies and Travel Agents across the country, many of which are small businesses with a high percentage of female employees, have relied on CERB.

The government’s extended “Avoid all non-essential travel” advisory will put a further financial strain on our business and without an extension of CERB, we will face significant economic hardships long after other businesses have re-opened. To protect the thousands of Canadian retail travel businesses, employees, and independent contractors we are requesting a sector specific extension to CERB for the Canadian retail travel industry until the end of December 2020.

Due to the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 health and economic crisis, many travel businesses do not expect revenue to return to 2019 levels until 2021 or 2022. Without an extension to CERB, and the other financial aid measures in place, my business will not survive.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

(Add your name here)

CC The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

 Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport

 Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

 Members of the COVID-19 Cabinet Committee