



**March 19, 2020**

**Dear Members,**

Today, Governor Doug Ducey announced the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for Arizona that will help small businesses here in the state impacted by COVID-19. Individual businesses can be eligible for up to \$2 million through the program. These SBA loans are critical to ensuring businesses across Arizona have access to financial relief. Arizona businesses impacted by COVID-19 may apply for a loan [HERE](#).

Now more than ever, the Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association is proud to serve as the statewide voice of advocacy for Arizona's travel, tourism and sports industry and we will remain vigilant in serving you in these unprecedented times. Although the AzLTA team has transitioned to working remotely in response to COVID-19, please know we are working around the clock in an effort to provide information and resources to you as well as answer questions you may have.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our industry. I have every optimism that we will bounce back with more resiliency than ever and lead our economy in its recovery. After all, this industry is the lifeblood of our great state, nation and globe.

Please stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Grace Sabow".

President & CEO

Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association

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*For the latest COVID-19 news including federal updates, industry impactful webinars and resources, [please visit our website](#).*

**State and Federal Update**

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of thousands of jobs this industry supports. As our state legislators fast-track a baseline budget, we are focused on keeping the Arizona Office of Tourism promotion funding whole as it will be vital for recovery. The current budget proposal does just that, and maintains the additional \$1.1 million investment achieved last year.

Senate President Karen Fann introduced [SB1694: unemployment compensation; coronavirus disease](#). This bill authorizes the Department of Economic Security to implement alternative benefit eligibility and employer contribution requirements for the federal-state unemployment insurance program in support of individuals and employers affected by the coronavirus.

In Washington, D.C., President Trump signed a [Coronavirus Relief Package](#) that includes free testing and paid emergency leave.

## Take Action!

The AzLTA and our national partners encourage you to share your personal stories so that we can advocate Congress to address additional key relief priorities:

- Grants to protect the travel workforce
- Loans to stabilize business operations
- Tax relief to mitigate economic losses and spur recovery

Contacting your Arizona Congressional leaders is easy with the following two tools. Be sure to share business pains and the impact on workers - encourage them to act now.

- **Lodging Members**, [please use this tool by the American Hotel & Lodging Association](#).
- **Tourism Members**, [please use this tool by the U.S. Travel Association](#).

## Economic Impact and Planning for Recovery

AzLTA is working with our national partners to share information with the media about the COVID-19 impact in Arizona. We recognize that our industry partners across the state are experiencing severe impacts and would like to hear from you.

Please send us information on how your company or organization is being impacted by travel restrictions, event postponements and other tourism and travel related cancellations. If you have information and data to share, [please send it to Karen Cahn](#).

## Arizona Take-Out Week

In collaboration with our partners at the Arizona Restaurant Association, we encourage all members with a restaurant to consider taking part in Arizona Take-Out Week. [Submit your take-](#)

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

The soon-to-be-launched website [www.aztakeoutweek.com](http://www.aztakeoutweek.com) will serve as a resource to local diners and keep our industry moving forward.

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[www.azlta.com](http://www.azlta.com)

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