



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Leader Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of all of us at OYO Hotels and Homes, we thank you for your leadership during this time of great crisis and uncertainty. We applaud the bipartisan leadership that all the members of the United States Senate and House have shown to enable an incredible government-wide response to a disaster our world hasn't seen in a generation, if ever.

These are unprecedented times for the entire economy, especially the travel and hospitality sector. The lodging industry and our employees are being hurt by circumstances completely out of our control.

Opening our doors in 2013, OYO Hotels & Homes, a young hotel startup, today is the world's leading chain of hotels and homes. Our portfolio includes 43,000 hotels with over 1 million rooms, and 130,000 vacation homes around the world. OYO operates in over 800 cities in 80 countries. While our US footprint might be small by hotel chain standards in the US, we have huge aspirations and goals for the U.S.

Our customers, employees and hotel partners are our top priority. We are proud to offer our employees, we call them OYOpreneurs, unlimited Paid Time Off. Our lodging partners with OYO flags in front of their hotels, are all small businesses, many whose entire family has worked and lived in the hotel to make it a success. Through no fault of their own, this virus could wipe all that away.

Business is really down and only getting worse. Therefore, respectfully, we need your help.

We are asking Congress to:

- Create access to capital. Congress must ensure hotel owners have immediate access to zero or low interest secured and unsecured loans to make their payroll and mortgage payments. Many hotel owners do not qualify for the established SBA loan programs (this is especially true for multiple owners of the same property).
- Provide grants to employers for keeping people employed (retention) and bringing people back to work as quickly as possible (rehiring). Help employers -- especially small hotel owners in middle America -- retain their employees and offer competitive pay and health care.
- Provide flexibility in lending. Give hotel owners a break on principal and interest payments they already owe.
- And finally, we endorse ideas like the \$300 billion small business package put forward by Small Business Committee Chairman Senator Marco Rubio and Sen. Susan Collins to provide \$300 billion in guaranteed small business loans -- with the loan being forgiven at the end of the period (hopefully 10 to 12 weeks) if the money is used for payroll and other typical expenses, like increased cleaning costs, to stay afloat.

Your steadfast leadership during this time of domestic and global crisis matters so much and we are grateful. All of us at OYO stand as committed partners to the government in creating and implementing solutions to support the hospitality industry, our YOpreneurs, partners and communities.

Working together, we can conquer anything.

We are convinced that with the steps taken by the government, businesses and communities for the good of all, we will emerge stronger than before. We will once again all be able to Live the Good Life.

Sincerely,

*Kent Knutson*

Kent Knutson

Head of Public Affairs

OYO Hotels and Homes

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