

December 9, 2020

The Honorable Senator Mike Crapo  
United States Senate  
RE: THE RESTAURANTS ACT  
S.4012 | H.R.7197  
SENT VIA EMAIL



Dear Senator Crapo,

The COVID-19 pandemic has stifled revenues and forced closures for restaurants and bars nationwide, including here in Downtown Boise. So many of our restaurants have been creative in their approach to the pandemic, and Downtown Boise Association has been supportive. Still, many will not make it through without your help. Despite doing their best to adapt their businesses to survive the pandemic, thousands of restaurants and bars have closed forever and thousands more could permanently shut their doors this winter without federal relief.

Imminent and widespread restaurant closures also portend disaster for suppliers reliant on restaurants as customers. Without restaurants to purchase their products, suppliers like farmers and food producers will lay off their workers and will be forced to adjust their business models to stay afloat. Altogether, if restaurants fail, the economic decline would be steep.

The RESTAURANTS Act would directly benefit Idaho by:

- Protecting Idaho's \$2.9 billion restaurant economy and its 3,385 eating and drinking locations.
- Generating \$632 million in economic benefit for Idaho.
- Saving Idaho \$116 million in unemployment benefits and insurance taxes by allowing restaurants to employ many of its 72,600 leisure and hospitality workers.
- Galvanizing Idaho's tourism industry, producing \$364 million in economic benefits.
- Providing essential markets for Idaho agricultural products including beef, potatoes, and dairy.

To this end, we urge your support of the Restaurants Act. PPP and CARES Act funding has helped many businesses stay afloat but has not addressed the specific challenges of food and beverage establishments. Passage of the Restaurants Act helps the establishments and restaurant workers here in Idaho who feed our communities and, during good times, bring us together.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Hensley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Hensley  
Executive Director  
Downtown Boise Association