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December 16, 2021

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act of 2021**

Dear Senator Rosen:

On behalf of our members, representing nearly 80 resorts across Nevada, and the more than 433,000 workers who depend on the Silver State's travel and tourism industry, I write to express the Nevada Resort Association's support of the bipartisan Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act of 2021 (S.3375).

No state has been impacted more by the ongoing pandemic than Nevada as none depend on the travel and tourism industry at the magnitude we do. Pre-pandemic, Nevada's leading industry employed more than one in every four Nevadan; contributed nearly 40 percent of our state's general fund and generated more than \$74 billion in economic activity. As we are all too aware, the unprecedented 78-day closure of Nevada's largest industry and economic engine combined with capacity limits after reopening, restrictions to international travel and a nonexistent tradeshow, convention and special events calendar devastated our state's economy and pushed our unemployment rate to eye-popping and unprecedented levels.

While the industry is faring better today than we were six months ago, we remain below many key 2019 economic indicators and continue to have the nation's highest unemployment rate. With international travel just beginning to return and the tradeshow and convention business still lagging, economists estimate our full recovery to remains 18 to 24 months away. Further, the impact of omicron and new variants loom as a threat to the progress we have made.

During this pivotal time, the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act would be a substantial bulwark against the challenges and uncertainties that may arise due to new variants, such as omicron, and would provide much needed resources to help the industry bring back more jobs and restore the economic activity our communities depend on. Specifically, the creation of an Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism within the Department of Commerce would ensure the nation's travel and tourism industry, a leading export with U.S. based jobs, is represented at the highest levels of government. It would also direct more attention towards the increasing the country's share of international visitation. As you know, international travelers to Nevada have a considerable economic impact as they stay longer and spend more during their visit than domestic business and leisure guests. In addition, the legislation would authorize a thorough

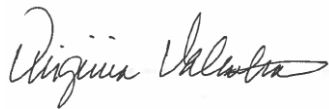
study regarding the effects of COVID-19 on the travel and tourism industry and make policy recommendations to ensure the United States remains competitive on the world stage while also collecting essential data on domestic travel.

Further, the bill contains critical provisions to further enhance and strengthen security screening at our nation's airports while helping passengers more efficiently through an airport for a better overall travel experience. Finally, we support the establishment of a temporary joint task force of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services to analyze and address the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on air travel now and after the pandemic.

In closing, the comprehensive nature of this bill addresses many areas of concern and will provide America's travel and tourism industry with much needed relief while developing long-term strategies for the future.

We appreciate your work in championing the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act and urge its passage. On behalf of our members, thank you for your leadership and your continued efforts to support the lifeblood of Nevada's economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with you on measures that expedite Nevada's full recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia Valentine".

Virginia Valentine  
President & CEO  
Nevada Resort Association