SAMPLE LETTER FOR HOTEL & LODGING BUSINESSES

HOTEL VERSION -
SEE SEPARATE
CLIENT VERSION

[Organization Letterhead or Logo]

[Date]

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Mass gathering limits on events and venues**

Dear Governor DeWine,

The ability to host safe and responsible meetings and events will be one of the keys to Ohio’s economic recovery. As part of Ohio’s hotel & lodging industry, our company would like to express its support for plans developed and forwarded by the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association and the Ohio Travel Association for ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­a Safe Return to Hosting Meetings and Events.

The negative economic impact of continuing severe restrictions on meetings and events business in Ohio is impacting communities, industries and employers like us. With the vast majority of business related to meetings and events lost in 2020, we are now hearing from customers and clients that they are forced into unfortunate and preventable decisions to cancel events well into late 2021, with even greater loss of revenue and jobs as a result. [INCLUDE ANY DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON YOUR HOTELS, IF DESIRED.]

Working with our industry, venue partners, destination marketing organizations, local authorities, and experts in our industry, we have been able to demonstrate that safe and compliant events are possible, using protocols and practices which exceed even the state’s guidelines for COVID-19 safety.

[ADD BRIEF MENTION OF ANY SPECIFIC BRAND OR INDUSTRY PROGRAMS, STEPS OR MITIGATION MEASURES.]

With our commitment to continued health safety measures maintaining the highest importance, we ask for consideration and support of these principles recommended by the entities representing our travel economy:

* allowing meetings and events venues to establish capacities based on their individual circumstances and environments, using updated COVID-19 compliant plans that meet current state requirements for all events and functions
* allow business meetings and events with reasonable occupancy limits under their own auspices, rather than tying meetings to the requirement of providing banquet and catering. Group meetings of similar sizes could be conducted just as safely – perhaps in some instances even more safely – without the provision of food and beverage
* allow the meetings and events industry to help guide the way for safer gatherings through the dissemination and utilization of detailed guidelines, protocols, plans, standards and resources which are specific to each venue’s circumstances and which exceed even the Responsible RestartOhio mandatory requirements and best practices
* reinforce to the public that while Ohio will continue to place the utmost importance on the necessary continuing health and safety protections as our number one priority, meetings and events are indeed permissible when held in accordance with the state’s requirements and industry standards which offer even more protections

The hotel & lodging industry is collaborating in ways like never before to fight COVID-19 and keep our guests, event attendees, exhibitors, employees and others involved in this vital economic activity safe. As Ohio continues to see improvement in indicators which have allowed us to adjust restrictions like the statewide curfew, we ask for your support in addressing the limits to meetings, events and other group business in this large part of Ohio’s economy.

Sincerely,

[name(s) and title(s)]

cc: Lt. Governor Jon Husted [mailing address is the same]