

Recommendations for Economic Relief for the Not-for-Profit Fair & Festival Community and the Affiliated Mobile Outdoor Amusement Industry Sector

As Congress considers responses to COVID-19 on economic recovery and stimulus, it is imperative that the legislation ensures that not-for-profit fair organizations and their for profit partners are eligible to participate, not unlike airlines, cruise lines, or others in the travel or hospitality industry sectors.

1. Prior federal law and legislation being passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are authorizing assistance that may now be needed and available to a much wider array of businesses and not for profit organizations than have typically interacted with the Small Business Administration. Because both the not-for-profit fair and festival sector and the mobile outdoor amusement business segment are unique subsets of our economic and commercial activities, language should be included which clearly defines their eligibility for such programs and loans. Suggested language follows:

Sec XXX Definition of a Disaster - Section 3(k)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(k)(2)) is amended –

(1) In subparagraph (b) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) In subparagraph (c) by striking the period at the end and inserting “;and”; and,

(3) By adding at the end the following:

(D) the cancellation or postponement of an annual local, county, regional or state fair or festival or a loss of a contract for performance artists, the operation of a midway carnival or circus or associated independent rides, games or food concessions as a result of a state or federal government issuing cancellation, closure or congregation limit advisories or other mandates in order to preserve public health and safety from a communicable disease or other health and safety threat.”

2. A recovery fund in the amount of \$782 million should be established for the benefit of local, county, and state fair organizations to be administered by the US Department of Agriculture.

3. A recovery fund in the amount of \$182 million should be established to be administered by the Small Business Administration to ensure the continuity of businesses operating mobile outdoor amusement that support fair and festival midways including carnival operators, independent ride operators, circuses, game providers and food concessionaires.