



Friday, October 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the American Bus Association (ABA), I write to urge immediate bipartisan cooperation to end the ongoing federal government shutdown that began after the September 30 funding deadline passed. Our member companies are integral to the U.S. motorcoach and group travel industries, which collectively generate \$90 billion in annual economic impact, sustain 500,000 jobs, and contribute \$16 billion in tax revenue. Last year alone, motorcoaches traveled more than 40 billion miles and carried 400 million passengers. Looking ahead, our industry will play a central role in supporting the upcoming decade of events, from large-scale sporting events and national conferences to community and educational travel—providing safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation options while driving significant economic activity in host communities.

Beyond their economic contributions, motorcoaches serve as a strategic national transportation reserve—first responders who are called upon to move military personnel, deliver critical supplies during disasters, and evacuate communities in emergencies. They also provide accessible and affordable transportation for school groups, seniors, sports teams, and millions of travelers each year. A lapse in federal appropriations would have significant and immediate consequences for our industry, its employees, and the communities we serve.

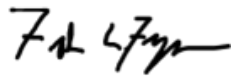
A prolonged federal government shutdown could result in cancelled trips, idling buses, and disrupting access to national parks, museums, and federally operated destinations—cornerstones of the group travel economy. Each day of closure threatens the hundreds of thousands of jobs our industry supports, while lost tourism dollars ripple through communities nationwide. Federal transportation programs, contract payments, and permit approvals are stalled, leaving operators in limbo and delaying critical safety reviews, regulatory actions, and grant disbursements. Security programs under the Department of Homeland Security are disrupted, educational and student travel is curtailed, and operators serving schools and youth groups are directly harmed. At the same time, reports that federal agencies may pursue permanent workforce reductions raise

even greater concerns, as the departments most critical to our sector—including Transportation, Homeland Security, Interior, Education, and Commerce—oversee programs essential to the safety, operations, and financial stability of motorcoach operators and travel companies.

ABA respectfully calls on Congress to act swiftly to pass a bipartisan funding measure and avoid a shutdown. Our industry—like so many others across the nation—depends on the continuity of federal programs and services. The stakes are too high for delay.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued service to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fred" being more prominent than the last name "Ferguson".

Fred Ferguson
President & CEO
American Bus Association