



Contact: Rebecca Kelley [RKelley@sandiego.gov](mailto:RKelley@sandiego.gov)

C: (619) 384-5269

Date: June 26, 2020

## **CHRIS CATE SUPPORTS NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO HELP REVIVE TOURISM IN SAN DIEGO** ***Proposed Federal Rebate Could Surge Local Economy with Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Quickly***

San Diego, CA: Earlier this week, Senator Martha McSally introduced the “American Tax Rebate and Incentive Program Act,” also known as the [“American TRIP Act.”](#) The proposed legislation would make available a temporary, nonrefundable tax credit for travel, lodging, entertainment, and other expenses in hopes of stimulating the economy from the effects of COVID-19. If passed, joint filers could receive a yearly tax credit of \$8,000 (or \$4,000 for individuals), as well as an additional \$500 for dependent children for tax years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The bill also provides \$50 million for Destination Marketing Organizations to promote travel and tourism nationwide.

San Diego is the nation’s eighth largest city and is an extremely popular tourist destination year-round. The tourism economy was booming prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 25 million passengers flying through San Diego International Airport in 2019. Today, passenger traffic at San Diego’s airport is down 95 percent as the airport is seeing record-lows in flights, hotel stays, consumer spending, and more.

Additionally, tourism is the second largest segment of San Diego's economy and employs approximately 194,000 people. There were 35.8 million visitors to San Diego last year, of which almost 18 million were overnight and over 17.7 million were day visitors. Visitors spent \$11.5 billion at thousands of San Diego businesses during their stay with 70 percent of those dollars spent at businesses other than lodging, including restaurants, museums, parks, and retailers.

Finally, tourism is the City of San Diego’s third largest source of revenue, generating nearly \$150 million in revenue each year. The impact COVID-19 has had on this vital industry is immeasurable. Between the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, and the ability to use these revenues to provide basic services for San Diegans, all levels of government must work to re-establish this significant segment of our economy.

“As Chair of the City of San Diego’s Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the City of San Diego is on its way to economic recovery and, if passed, the American TRIP Act would be an important piece to that puzzle,” stated Councilmember Cate.

Councilmember Cate sent his [letter of support](#) to Senator Martha McSally.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., the [City of San Diego’s Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee](#) will be meeting to discuss additional steps to reinvigorate San Diego’s economy.

[Website](#) | [NextDoor](#)

Phone: (619) 236-6616 | Email: [ChrisCate@SanDiego.gov](mailto:ChrisCate@SanDiego.gov)