



## COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE

SIXTH DISTRICT  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

September 22, 2020

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Maritime Unit  
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS V18-2  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Re: Docket #CDC 2020-0087

To Whom It May Concern:

San Diego is recognized throughout the country and the world as a top tourism destination. Anyone who has visited knows the great things our city has to offer, from attractions to popular shopping, dining, and entertainment offerings, and all on top of its amazing weather. With our coastline location and proud maritime history, it is also fitting that San Diego is a popular starting and ending point for many who take cruises.

Since this past spring, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought nearly all of the travel and tourism industry, including the cruise line companies, to a complete halt.

For San Diego, this has meant a dramatic decrease in business for a number of local employers, both those that support the cruise industry directly as vendors and suppliers, in addition to those patronized by cruise ship passengers as they make their way into and out of town, and around the city's popular dining and shopping areas near the cruise terminal area.

According to the Cruise Lines International Association, the cruise industry generates over \$53 billion USD in economic activity in the U.S. and supports 421,000 American jobs. As Chair of the City of San Diego's Economic Development and Intergovernmental relations Committee, one of my top priorities is ensuring our local tourism industry survives this pandemic and ultimately thrives.

I fully support efforts by the cruise industry and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure that cruise ships are ready to resume sailing with the utmost care and precautions taken to protect the health of its crew members and passengers.

Pertaining to questions 1-3 of the Request for Information issued by the CDC, the industry is currently working on crafting its plans and guidelines to do just that. They are working with medical and scientific experts to study a variety of options, such as more frequent screenings

of passengers, as well as implementing needed measures for physical distancing on board, changes to shore excursions, additional training for ship's medical personnel, enhanced sanitization and cleaning of frequently used areas, and modification or elimination of buffet dining to reduce the chances of viral transmissions and infections.

As a member of the San Diego City Council and as someone who calls San Diego "home", I support the cruise companies' efforts to work with the CDC and federal authorities to make the industry healthier and safer for cruise ship passengers, and to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

With that path forward made clear, I look forward to welcoming the cruise industry to San Diego again very soon.

Sincerely,



Chris Cate  
Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District

cc: U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein  
U.S. Senator Kamala Harris  
U.S. Representative Scott Peters