



March 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Potential Aid for Associations Impacted by Coronavirus

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

On behalf of the IEEE-USA (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA), I am contacting you to ask that Associations and other Nonprofits be included in federal aid legislation in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Like hotels, restaurants and convention centers, the current health crisis has had a profound impact on nonprofit associations like IEEE. Conferences, tradeshow and technical meetings fill many of those hotels, restaurants and conference centers. When associations cancel events, as is now happening, it is not only local business that are harmed, but also the host associations. With a huge numbers of event cancellations, host associations are left with large attrition costs to hotels, venues and other vendors, and the need to provide refunds to attendees and exhibitors.

IEEE alone has 40 technical conferences scheduled in the United States between March 15th and April 30th. All are now in doubt. The resulting direct financial losses on our association will be in the millions. Conferences, trade shows and other meetings are a central part of most associations - and are an important service to the industries and professions that we serve. Travel restrictions, quarantines (official and from employers), and group gathering limits impact our ability to deliver on our mission of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Our association, members, and our employees will all be directly impacted.

Associations exist to bring people together. It is both our mission and our primary service to society. Under current conditions and with potentially significant losses, we are struggling to fulfill this mission. As Congress seeks to help the American economy through this crisis, we ask that you remember the non-profit community and our unique and vital role in society.

Please include associations and nonprofits in federal COVID-19 aid legislation.

Sincerely,

Jim Conrad
IEEE-USA President

IEEE-USA is the American component of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society. In addition to having nearly 180,000 individual members in the United States, IEEE hosts around 2,000 technical conferences each year around the world.