

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 307

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants for travel promotion, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants for travel promotion, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 209 of the Public Works
5 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149)
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “travel pro-
8 motion (including funding for tourism marketing,

1 marketing research, purchasing advertisements, and
 2 attracting business meetings or convention travel),”
 3 after “technical assistance, training,”; and

4 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “and travel
 5 promotion” after “planning projects”.

6 (b) COST SHARING.—Section 204(c) of the Public
 7 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
 8 U.S.C. 3144(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR TRAVEL PRO-
 11 MOTION.—In the case of a grant for travel pro-
 12 motion under section 209(a), the Secretary may in-
 13 crease the Federal share above the percentage speci-
 14 fied in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost
 15 of the project.”.

16 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding any other
 17 provision of law, a grant made with amounts made avail-
 18 able under subsection (e) may be in an amount that is
 19 not more than 75 percent of the difference in revenue of
 20 the eligible entity from 2019 to 2020.

21 (d) WAIVER.—Section 209(b)(2) and section 302 of
 22 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965
 23 (42 U.S.C. 3149(b)(2), 3162) shall not apply to a grant
 24 made with amounts made available under subsection (e).

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$2,250,000,000 to make
3 grants under section 209(a) of the Public Works and Eco-
4 nomic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149(a)) to
5 eligible entities for costs associated with tourism mar-
6 keting and promotion activities necessary to promote safe
7 and healthy travel practices and economic recovery in com-
8 munities impacted by a decline in travel and tourism as
9 a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19),
10 including—

11 (1) to pay costs associated with tourism mar-
12 keting and promotion activities, including marketing
13 research, necessary to assist with declines in visita-
14 tion and the economic recovery from lost revenue as
15 a result of COVID–19, including to purchase media
16 advertisements on print, broadcast, or digital media
17 for the purpose of marketing, public awareness, or
18 information campaigns relating to local tourism;

19 (2) to pay costs associated with providing infor-
20 mation to visitors about the health and safety pro-
21 tections, guidance, or requirements of Federal,
22 State, or local governments and businesses to reduce
23 the spread of COVID–19;

24 (3) to pay the increased costs of cleaning and
25 sanitation, including physical modifications to a con-

1 vention center, large event space, or community at-
2 traction associated with precautions to provide for
3 safe worker, traveler, or event environments; or

4 (4) to pay the costs of salaries and expenses as-
5 sociated with the operations of the eligible entity,
6 other than salaries and expenses of the executives of
7 the eligible entity.

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