August 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As negotiations continue on a fourth “Recovery Package” to further address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, IPC urges Congress to pass this critical legislation at the earliest possible date with provisions to drive economic growth that includes the electronics manufacturing industry.

IPC is a U.S.-based global trade association with close to 3,000 member facilities in the United States, representing all facets of the electronics manufacturing industry, including designers, printed circuit board manufacturers, assembly companies, suppliers, and original equipment manufacturers. The industry plays a key role in the technologies and innovations that underpin the U.S. economy and national security. It supports more than 5.3 million good-paying American jobs and provides critical inputs to other key sectors including healthcare, transportation, and aerospace.

Through great effort, care, and creativity, most of our members have continued to operate throughout the pandemic. They have had no choice. The electronics they manufacture are incorporated into urgently needed medical equipment, critical infrastructure, and defense technologies. Yet, the crisis has exposed vulnerabilities to our manufacturing base relating to workforce safety, liability, and government services that require immediate attention to help the industry weather these trying times.

IPC urges Congress to act quickly to support the nation’s industrial resiliency by passing a Recovery Package with the following measures:

- Modified unemployment insurance benefits to continue essential support for laid-off workers, helping to maintain consumer demand while reducing disincentives to return to work;
- Common-sense liability protections shielding businesses that have taken “reasonable steps” to comply with government workplace safety guidelines;
- Paycheck Protection Program extension and the Safe and Healthy Workplace tax credit;
- Supplementary funding to sustain and rebuild the defense industrial base; and
- Aid to state and local governments to ensure essential services are maintained.

These provisions will help the electronics manufacturing industry cope with the pandemic and contribute to the economic recovery. As such, IPC supports including them in the Recovery Package.

More information about the electronics manufacturing industry’s role in the U.S. economy and its policy positions can be found in this recent report and in our Roadmap to Economic Recovery.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Mitchell
Vice President, Global Government Relations