

**Put on your Company Letterhead**

May xx, 2020

Dear Senator or Congressman/woman (last name):

I am writing to urgently request your help in saving our family business! As economic hardship continues to plague our country, millions of Americans will not enjoy the great and historic tradition of celebrating their freedom with fireworks on Independence Day. Without your assistance, many multi-generational small family businesses that comprise the professional display fireworks industry will not be able to survive. With only a handful of planned events across the country, the skies above many of this nation's cities and towns will be dark this Fourth of July. As such, this could be the end of our (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> generation family business.)

Our small family business, (name of company) is located in (City and State) and has been in operation for (how many years) and employs (XX) year-round workers with an additional (XX) skilled pyrotechnicians for the Independence Day holiday. Because our industry is so unique, the standard stimulus of "forgivable" loans such as the PPP, although helpful in the short term, are insufficient to help us weather the COVID crisis which has hit our industry at the worst possible time of the year.

The attached solution is straightforward and key to our very survival. Slight modifications to the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program will provide the flexibility needed for our business to survive. The low interest and forgivable non collateralized EIDL loans will help us bridge the gap covering the 10 months of costs as our industry is losing more than 80 percent of our annual revenue.

Nationwide, the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) has estimated that 150 small family businesses employ about 3,000 people like the ones in your district. Collectively, our industry needs access to about \$175 million in low interest and forgivable loans to remain in business until next year. APA's proposal includes limits on the use of the loans and will allow our businesses to retain the highly skilled workers needed to work with pyrotechnics – SAFELY.

As an industry that brings the nation together each year to celebrate America's freedom, the small family businesses that make up the professional fireworks display and entertainment industry, urgently need your support.

Thank you for your assistance.

(Signature)