

September 2, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
House Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Reconciliation - Employee Retention Tax Credit

Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of The National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) and our membership, I am writing to urge you to include access to fourth quarter Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) in the final budget reconciliation package.

As passed by the Senate, The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act terminates the ERTC three months early—making wages paid after September 30, 2021, ineligible for the credit.

The convenience services industry, which provides workplace snacks, meals and beverages to millions of employees every day, has been tremendously impacted by COVID-19. And the industry continues to struggle as the nation deals with the Delta variant and businesses extend work-from-home operations. NAMA research shows that across the broader vending and convenience services industry, approximately 50,000 jobs (28.74% of the industry) have been lost since the start of the pandemic.

Past Federal- and State-mandated shutdowns produced a vast reduction in serviceable client locations. Office buildings, schools, colleges and universities, and other locations where vending machines, office coffee services and micro markets (unattended retail outlets) are deployed, remain closed or dramatically decreased to this day.

Convenience services is a small, entrepreneurial, and diverse industry. From traditional vending and micro markets, office coffee and pantry services, manufacturing, and small-drop distribution services—convenience services meet the needs of over 40 million American consumers daily at work, home, school, and play. Vending and convenience services operators have kept America's essential response teams and front-line workers going during a time of national crisis. Operators have kept machines, micro markets, and pantries in hospitals, state and federal buildings, police stations, firehouses, truck stops and rest areas, stocked with necessary sustenance, even while putting themselves at risk to do so.

The ERTC is one of the few financial safety nets available to small businesses during the pandemic and has enabled convenience services companies to keep employees on the payroll. Cutting off this small business lifeline before the planned deadline would greatly impact businesses fighting to remain open for business, and hard-working Americans employed.

As you consider the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and craft the reconciliation package, please do not do so on the backs of those who need it most—small businesses. We urge you to add the ERTC into the final budget reconciliation bill and **make it available through the end of 2021 as previously promised.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Balakgie', written in a cursive style.

Carla Balakgie, FASAE, CAE
President & CEO

CC: The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer

NAMA represents the \$31 billion U.S. convenience services industry. By providing advocacy, education and research, NAMA works to promote and protect the industry's nearly 160,000 hardworking employees. Through traditional vending and micro markets, office coffee and pantry services, product manufacturing and small-drop distribution, convenience services meets the needs of over 40 million American consumers daily at work, home, school and play.