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May 7, 2021

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Walensky:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Florida Ocean Alliance, we respectfully request your support for the proposal by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) to lift restrictions on cruising beginning this summer. Such action will lead to resumption of safe cruising, increase jobs in Florida, plus lead to a robust cruise industry.

The cruise industry generates significant economic activity through its Florida-based operations, totaling nearly \$8 billion in 2016, and \$56 billion in total economic impact with 450,000 jobs in the U.S. Three of the largest multi-day cruise ports in the world are located in Florida-- Port Everglades, Port Miami, and Port Canaveral. Cruises at JaxPort, Port Tampa Bay and Port of Palm Beach, plus port of call visits at the Port of Key West, reinforce the statewide economic benefits of cruise tourism generated at Florida's seaports. The official trade organization of the North American cruise industry is headquartered in Florida and the state is home to the corporate and administrative offices of all the top cruise lines. They employ close to 150,000 Floridians and account for almost two-thirds of U.S. cruise embarkations.

The Florida Ocean Alliance strongly supports the safe resumption of cruise sailings to help recover from the economic impact of the COVID pandemic on Florida's business community. Cruise lines are ready to provide safe service to its customers, and ships have been sailing since December outside of the U.S. One company, Royal Caribbean Cruises, has carried more than 100,000 people safely already. Industry-wide, more than 350,000 guests have enjoyed safe, pleasant journeys throughout the world.



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As a unique nonpartisan alliance of industry, academic, non-profit, and private sector entities in the state, the Florida Ocean Alliance supports and recognizes the importance of the ocean economy to Florida's economy and the need for protecting the health of its citizens. By recognizing and taking actions to safely open up cruising, you are taking an important step toward protecting Florida's citizens and its economy.

Sincerely,

J. Stanley Payne, Chair

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation