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AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

I write to express concerns regarding the State's recently released industry guidance for amusement parks and theme parks, which will keep Disneyland closed for the foreseeable future. I urge your consideration of reopening your task force to heed the input from representatives of the Disneyland Resort employees, who have advocated for the end of the seven-month closure in a manner that both protects public health and livelihoods.

As you know, the guidelines issued yesterday by Secretary Ghaly permit large parks like Disneyland to reopen at 25 percent capacity only once Orange County reaches Tier 4, the State's least restrictive tier. As Dr. Clayton Chau, Orange County's Public Health Officer, has indicated that the County will not reach this tier until summer 2021, the inability to create a path forward to ensure the Disneyland Resort can reopen safely soon will continue to put a tremendous strain on workers and the County's economy.

On Saturday, the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions sent you a letter highlighting Disney's efforts to engage with employees' representatives on initiatives to implement critical safety measures, including ensuring social distancing, providing personal protective equipment, addressing ventilation, and improving access to testing. Given these developments, the Coalition expressed their belief that a path existed to reopen the Disneyland parks safely once Orange County reaches Tier 3. Unfortunately, it is my understanding that your task force did not consult the views of Disneyland employees or their representatives prior to yesterday's release of the industry guidance.

While we continue our critical work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it is imperative that we find a science-based roadmap to reopen our economy safely to protect public health, save workers' livelihoods, and help small businesses survive. That is why I ask your consideration of the views of Disneyland's workers and their representatives in refining the State's industry guidance and providing a sensible path forward for the reopening of the Disneyland parks. I stand ready to work with you to protect the wellbeing of Orange County families and businesses.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

CC: Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency