U.S. TOURISM ECONOMY ALLIANCE

American travel and tourism economy jobs are under threat

Travel and tourism enrich our lives, strengthen connections, and power jobs and the economy across the United States.

Millions of Americans can afford to travel thanks to travel rewards and points with their credit cards. These aren't just bonus travel perks or luxurious extras—for millions of Americans, rewards are a financial lifeline that help stretch budgets, covering everyday expenses and seasonal spending like holidays and back-to-school shopping.

Airline-partnered credit cards fuel more than $23 billion in travel-related economic activity and support over 183,000 jobs across the U.S.

But all those benefits could soon disappear. A bill in Congress called the Durbin-Marshall bill would wreak havoc on the tourism economy, driving up costs for credit card companies and consumers, and creating a domino effect that would **hurt travelers and cost jobs.**

The U.S. Travel Economy Alliance was created to fight back against harmful policies that threaten thousands of jobs.

The Impacts of the Durbin-Marshall Bill

BY THE NUMBERS:

An Oxford Economics study estimated the bill would mean:

12,500
jobs lost in Las Vegas

8,700
jobs lost in Orlando

6,800
jobs lost in Miami

3,400
jobs lost in Hawaii

2,500
jobs lost in Nashville

This represents billions of dollars of economic loss for each destination, in addition to other affected areas nationwide.[3]

86% of credit card users maintain active rewards credit cards.[1]

44% cite rewards as the primary reason for using their cards.[2]

Without rewards programs, fewer people would spend on travel, including at the entertainment venues and small businesses that rely on tourism.

Every business that is part of the travel and tourism ecosystem has a place in our alliance: hotels, resorts, entertainment and event venues, tourism attractions, convention centers, airlines and airports, chambers of commerce, and small businesses that depend on tourism.

Our mission is to highlight the economic benefits that travel and tourism bring to the U.S. and share the real-life impacts that flawed public policy like the Durbin-Marshall bill would have on American cities, businesses and jobs.

Together, we can tell the story of our industry and the people behind it, putting faces and names to the negative financial impact of this harmful proposal and mobilizing people in high-tourism destinations to contact their representatives and tell them to **protect the American tourism economy.**

Sources: 1. American Bankers Association, 2021; 2. Consumer Survey conducted by Intellisurvey and EMI, September 2023; Federal Reserve data on Regulation II impacts; 3. Oxford Economics, "Economic Impact of Credit Card Competition Act on U.S. Travel and Tourism," January 2025.

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To learn more about **USTEA** and learn how you can support tourism in your backyard and nationwide, please visit us at **protectusatourism.com** or email us at **info@protectusatourism.com**.

USTEA is a project of the Electronic Payments Coalition.