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AAHOA Statement on Destruction Caused by Tornadoes Across the South and Midwest

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 12 – AAHOA President & CEO Ken Greene issued the following statement on the devastating tornadoes that swept across the South and Midwest over the weekend:

“America’s hotel owners are devastated and shocked over the outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes that tore through at least six states on Friday night and early Saturday morning. In what is being called the most horrific tornado event in Kentucky’s history, more than 100 lives are expected lost, which could be the deadliest in the state’s history.

America’s hoteliers are thinking of the families who have lost loved ones, their homes, their businesses, and for the countless souls who remain unaccounted for. We thank our first responders, the National Guard, citizens of Kentucky, and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear for their bravery and leadership over the past several days and for their commitment to save as many lives as possible.

AAHOA encourages hoteliers who would like to get involved in relief efforts to donate to the new state-wide relief fund, [Team Western Kentucky Relief Fund](#), which was recently announced by Gov. Beshear to help Kentucky tornado victims.

AAHOA Members in the region are also encouraged to provide rooms to displaced families and first responders who are currently assessing the damage and searching for survivors. More opportunities to get involved and help the Commonwealth will be announced in the coming days after the initial search and rescue efforts can be completed.

AAHOA is currently working alongside our state hotel and lodging association partners on disaster relief and other resources for AAHOA Members who have been impacted by this weekend’s horrific events.”

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About AAHOA

AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the nation, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA’s 20,000

members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.