

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to thank you for your strong leadership as you command the nation's response to our invisible enemy - COVID-19. We appreciate your efforts to ensure that our doctors, nurses, and first responders have the medicines and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) necessary to combat the health crisis we are currently experiencing. We also applaud your decisive action to support businesses and employees negatively impacted by the economic fallout stemming from this virus.

However, we write to bring your attention to an issue that continues to negatively impact hundreds of small communities across the country. As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress established a direct aid program to assist struggling state and local governments that have incurred unexpected costs directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the law's definition of a local government only allows counties and localities with more than 500,000 residents to directly access this important aid program, creating confusion and leaving many of the communities we represent ineligible to apply directly for this much-needed assistance.

Our nation's smaller counties, cities, and municipalities were again left out of the interim COVID-19 relief legislation that Congress passed last week, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This comes as reports indicate that many smaller communities across the country are reducing PPE purchases and are considering cuts to local police and fire departments over budget shortfalls related to COVID-19 expenditures. Our small counties, cities, and municipalities cannot afford to keep fighting this battle alone.

As such, we respectfully request that as you negotiate future COVID-19 recovery legislation, you push for inclusion of language fixing the statutory definition of a local government to protect our counties, cities, and municipalities with fewer than 500,000 residents and incorporate retroactive relief to assist these struggling smaller communities offset unforeseen COVID-19 related expenses.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request to help smaller counties, cities, and municipalities battle and defeat this invisible enemy.

Sincerely,



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Ron Wright
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Senate Minority Leader