

DOUG LAMALFA

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0501

April 9, 2020

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

Governor Newsom,

On March 27, 2020, President Donald J. Trump signed H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. As you may know, Section 5001 of this legislation established a Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide \$150 billion in funding to States, U.S. Territories, and Tribes to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19.

While Congress did allow for large cities and counties to directly receive assistance from the U.S. Treasury, there were logistical concerns about allowing every jurisdiction in the nation to separately request direct funding from the Treasury. I am writing you today to request that your office develop a process for smaller towns and counties to request their portion of California's State allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which the Congressional Research Services estimates to be \$15.3 billion. Given the reality that small or rural areas of our State often have fewer staff, I am asking that you make every attempt to make this process as simple as possible, and disburse funds as rapidly as possible.

Small and rural jurisdictions, which make up the vast majority of my Congressional District, were already struggling financially. In a normal year, they operate on shoestring budgets without much flexibility. As this virus spreads, that meager flexibility evaporated. Now, public officials are left without resources just as this microscopic threat has come to dominate every social and familial interaction.

The Coronavirus Relief Fund was designed to reinforce every county, city, town and village that is struggling to cope with this pandemic. Your attention and action on this matter is paramount.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug LaMalfa', with a stylized, flowing script.

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

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