

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chair
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
2069 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chair Velázquez, and Ranking Member Chabot:

We appreciate your leadership in providing unprecedented resources for American small businesses through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (Public Law 116-136). Unfortunately, local chambers of commerce, which play a crucial role in sustaining our Main Street economy, are ineligible for assistance through the lending programs included in this legislation. Given the severe financial difficulties that many of these organizations are now confronting, we ask that you include language in the next coronavirus relief bill to enable local chambers and other 501(c)6 organizations that support the needs of our local businesses to access direct federal aid.

Chambers of commerce are non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that bring together business leaders in our communities, helping them to negotiate shared challenges and promote local economic development. At this exceptionally difficult time for our Main Street economy, local chambers are providing critical guidance and resources to help small businesses weather the current economic downturn, including urgently-needed assistance in obtaining loans and grant funding from the federal government.

Unfortunately, just like the small businesses they serve, many local chambers are now experiencing their own financial challenges. If these organizations are unable to survive, the path to recovery for our hard-hit Main Street economy will be even more difficult. To help local chambers meet their current obligations and continue assisting small businesses in our communities, we strongly believe that Congress should ensure these organizations are eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and allow them to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program.

Again, we believe the *CARES Act* will make a significant positive difference in our communities. However, to ensure that local chambers of commerce can continue to support small businesses at this precarious moment for our country, we are hopeful that you will take action to enable chambers of commerce and other 501(c)6 organizations that support the needs of our local businesses to receive direct federal support through the initiatives in this legislation. We are grateful for your attention to this request and appreciate your diligent and committed work during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/
Daniel P. Meuser
Member of Congress

/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

/s/
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/
Susie Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
John Rutherford
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

/s/
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/
Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

/s/
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

/s/
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

/s/
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/
Pete Olson
Member of Congress

/s/
David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

/s/
Ross Spano
Member of Congress

/s/
Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

/s/
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

/s/
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

/s/
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

/s/
Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

/s/
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

/s/
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

/s/
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

/s/
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/
Martha Roby
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

/s/
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

/s/
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

/s/
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Babin
Member of Congress

/s/
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

/s/
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress