



April 30, 2020

TO: Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation

FROM: Kim Callis, President *Kim Callis*  
Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)

RE: Additional Federal Stimulus Funding

On behalf of Virginia's 21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs), I thank you for your efforts to help all Virginians through passage of the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act), and other measures to assist individuals, businesses, and communities during this COVID-19 pandemic. These measures have helped address public health issues and some economic impacts of this pandemic. However, there is more work to be done.

As much as we hear about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy, the damage to local governments and economies is equally catastrophic. Some local governments have already or soon will furlough or lay off employees. Earlier projections for various local taxes are no longer valid. Real estate taxes, personal property taxes, meals and lodging taxes, sales taxes, and other revenue sources will be dramatically reduced. Budgets must be completely reworked and belt-tightening operational measures implemented so that delivery of water, sewer, police, fire, and other essential services will not be interrupted. Many amenities will likely be suspended.

As you know, PDCs actively work with their local government members to "promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future." PDCs are already playing a vital role in their regions to respond to the existing impacts of COVID-19 and to prepare for recovery. While the CARES Act is providing some initial relief, more help is needed. The Commonwealth's localities need flexible funding that will help replace lost revenues so that core services continue, and that will also help with discretionary measures that promote recovery efforts that restore the health of local economies. Our Virginia PDCs stand ready to help with any and all efforts to this end.

We recognize that governing in these troubled times is challenging. We also recognize that localities must be creative and innovative to develop new and different ways to deliver essential services. We ask, as our federal government considers options and shapes the next round of stimulus funding, that you support a package that directs critical funding to local governments and that provides the flexibility to utilize funds in ways that best meet locality needs.

As always, the Virginia PDCs greatly appreciate your consideration. Thank you for all that you do.

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
The Capitol, S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Leader McConnell and Secretary Mnuchin:

On behalf of our state, local, and tribal governments, it is essential that you include robust, dedicated, and flexible funding to all units of state and local government in the next interim emergency coronavirus package to support their ongoing efforts in the fight against this pandemic. Not only are these public servants on the front line of the immediate response effort, they are also major employers navigating unprecedented declines in revenue just as the need for their services hits an all-time high. We can and we must work together to get this essential funding to our local partners as quickly as possible.

While the Coronavirus Relief Fund authorized in the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) was an important first step, there is no guarantee that any of that funding will reach the millions of Americans who live in communities with fewer than 500,000 residents. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has made it clear that no unit of local government representing fewer than 500,000 residents is eligible to apply for direct funding. The next interim emergency coronavirus package must include dedicated funding for the cities, counties, tribes, and other local governments that serve these communities.

The intent of the legislative language authorizing the Coronavirus Relief Fund was to provide flexible funding to state and local jurisdictions as they respond to an unfolding national health and economic crisis. Flexibility is critical as federal response guidelines change almost daily. Our local partners have to constantly adjust and adapt to maintain a consistent response while grappling with dramatically reduced state and local revenues that are the direct result of COVID-19's effects on our economy. While we remain hopeful that the U.S. Department of the Treasury will issue implementation guidance for the Coronavirus Relief Fund that is consistent with the aforementioned Congressional intent, we also know that our state, local, and tribal partners need certainty now that they can use all current and future federal funds to cover reductions in revenues resulting from the public health emergency and faltering COVID-19 economy.

Our local partners, unlike the federal government, have a legal requirement to balance their budget. They do not have the luxury of carrying debt over year after year. We stand with our country's governors, mayors, county officials, and tribal leaders in asking you to put politics aside and support our local partners. They cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



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Doug Jones  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



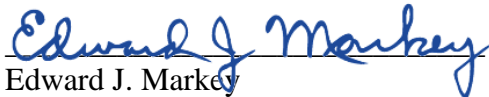
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



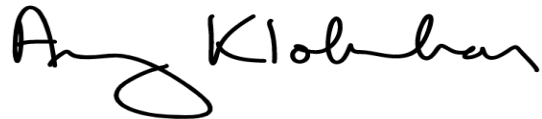
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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



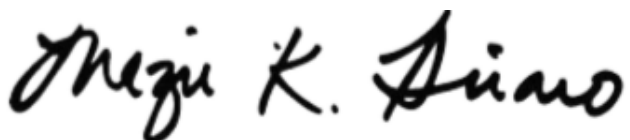
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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator




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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich

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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



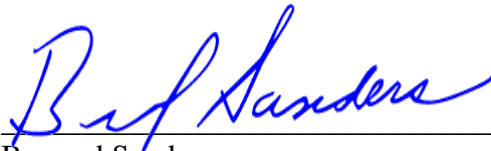
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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper

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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



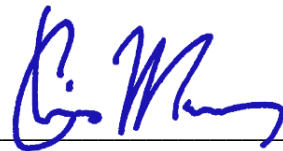
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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator

Mark R Warner

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Mark Warner  
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Brian Schatz

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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Jack Reed

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Jack Reed  
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator