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

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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We look forward to working in a bi-partisan fashion to address the needs of the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to our collective efforts, we have done our best to address a number of critical needs for our communities: helping individuals, small businesses, hospitals, school systems, and many others with direct resources to help them weather this extremely challenging situation.

Among those that were also helped by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act were states and larger local governments who received an allocation of \$150 billion via the Coronavirus Relief Fund. While this is obviously helpful, we are concerned the funding will not provide any direct relief to stabilize counties, cities, and towns that have fewer than 500,000 people, all of whom are on the front line of dealing with the pandemic while also facing significant revenue declines of their own as most of the country is under stay-at-home orders.

Many of us do not represent local governments that contain more than 500,000 people. With that in mind, we urge you to include additional direct stabilization funding to all local governments in the next COVID-19 response bill with a focus on those communities with populations under 500,000. Inclusion of small localities would provide funding to all local governments with fewer than 500,000 people on a per capita basis and would also allow funding to be used to offset lost revenue due to the pandemic.

Without such funding, local governments are already facing tough decisions to lay off or furlough staff due to steep revenue declines, including at times first responders like police and firefighters. During this pandemic, when Congress is doing its best to keep everyone whole until our country can return to something closer to normal, it is key that our local governments – who

often provide a high proportion of jobs in smaller communities – do not add to the unemployment rolls, particularly with layoffs of first responders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We stand ready to work with you as we continue to provide much-needed relief for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Gregory Steube', written in a cursive style.

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

The following members have co-signed this letter:

Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16)

Doug Collins (GA-09)

Mike Rogers (AL-03)

Matt Gaetz (FL-01)

Michael Simpson (ID-02)

Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)

Mark Amodei (NV-02)

Ron Wright (TX-06)

Mike Gallagher (WI-08)

Brian Mast (FL-18)

Bob Gibbs (OH-07)