



October 22, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of America's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs, the National Association of Counties (NACo) thanks you for your ongoing efforts to enact historic bipartisan infrastructure investments, including those that were deferred by the COVID-19 public health emergency. As we continue to evaluate the unique opportunities and challenges associated with recovering from the devastating effects of COVID-19 within our communities, **counties strongly urge you to immediately pass the bipartisan *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S. 3011)*.**

This legislation represents a bipartisan compromise forged by Senators Cornyn and Padilla that unanimously passed the U.S. Senate. It would provide state and local governments flexibility to invest a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funds) in transportation, infrastructure and government services. This flexibility is crucial as some local governments struggle to make necessary investments in their community in compliance with the existing guidance for the funds.

While this legislation would provide much-needed flexibility, it would neither mandate funds be used in any particular way nor would it increase overall federal spending. The legislation would also cap the amount of funds that a recipient could use for the newly eligible activities, thereby ensuring Recovery Funds are not diverted from addressing the public health emergency and its impacts. This legislation is especially significant for rural areas, which account for nearly 70 percent of America's counties. County officials in those areas often have a wide variety of responsibilities that do not align with currently allowable uses of the Recovery Funds.

America's counties have been engaged in our nation's response to COVID-19 since the earliest days, and providing local leaders with flexible, essential financial resources is the surest way to see that our nation's preparedness and responsivity continues. With the additional flexibility provided by S. 3011, the true intent of the ARPA – to assist state, local and tribal governments in their recovery from the disastrous impacts of the global pandemic – can be realized.

We believe this legislation is imperative to leverage the full benefits of the ARPA's once-in-a-generation investments. We thank you for your partnership and respectfully ask that you swiftly pass S. 3011.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase  
CEO/Executive Director  
National Association of Counties