

TO BE PLACED ON BOS LETTERHEAD

May 05, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, thank you for consistently advocating for funding for state and local governments of all sizes as Congress continues to work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your support, particularly for smaller local governments like ours that are often left out of most direct funding programs provided by Congress.

As you know, Del Norte County is a community of about 28,000 on the Pacific Coast, with our northern border forming the California-Oregon border. In years past, our economy was mostly resource dependent. Today, nearly 90 percent of the County is owned by the federal and state governments and while our economy may be more diverse, it is not necessarily consistently healthier, particularly with the challenges facing our nation due to the ongoing pandemic and economic shutdown.

During negotiations on the Phase 3.5 bill, we supported the approach you and Senator Schumer took in offering to provide \$150 billion to all counties, cities, and states. *It is critically important that in any future negotiations, you please support ensuring that all local governments get some funding, including smaller counties like ours, and that minimum thresholds or funding formulas like CDBG, which leave us to rely on the state for a potential allocation, are not used.* We also appreciate that this approach would have allowed the funds to be used to offset lost revenue, which is critical. Your offer also was supported by the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities, groups that do not always see eye to eye.

In terms of other legislative efforts, we also support H.R. 6467, the Coronavirus Community Relief Act, which suggests providing \$250 billion in direct funding to all local governments on a per capita basis and would allow funding to be used to offset lost revenue due to the pandemic.

Local governments across the country employ about 13 percent of our nation's workforce. While we have prepared for troubled times, no one could have foreseen the economic fallout we are facing. We will balance our budget under any scenario, but that may mean that we resort to drastic measures that will only make our nation's economic recovery more difficult. The assistance envisioned by your offer during the Phase 3.5 negotiations or H.R. 6467 would go a long way to ensuring we do not need to take those drastic actions and instead can help foster our nation's growth while continuing to provide our community with important the public service they deserve.

Thank you again for your efforts to provide direct funding to all units of local government regardless of size. We appreciate your attention to our needs and are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California

TO BE PLACED ON BOS LETTERHEAD

May 05, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the Del Norte County, California Board of Supervisors, thank you for consistently advocating for funding for state and local governments of all sizes as Congress continues to work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your support, particularly for smaller local governments like ours that are often left out of most direct funding programs provided by Congress.

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Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California