

[Date]

[Address, Member of Congress Office]

Dear member of Congress,

As a municipal leader and a constituent, I am writing on behalf of my community to urge you to support local governments in the next round of federal assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communities like mine are taking extraordinary measures to protect our residents' health and safety, including continuing essential services. Unfortunately, the fiscal consequences of COVID-19 are unprecedented and unbudgeted. The lost revenue to our local economy cannot be fully recouped through the local tax base.

Without a relief lifeline to recover and restore our local economic activity, we will have to make cuts to essential services and layoff local workers, including emergency first responders, sanitation workers, social service providers and others who keep our communities safe and moving forward during this difficult time. We thank you for your efforts to provide immediate relief through the prior federal relief packages, but my community has not seen the federal support that we need for essential services.

We ask for your support for DIRECT relief in the next package to protect the members of our communities who help protect us. Specifically, we are asking for your support of legislation that includes:

- \$500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments.
- Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government with no exclusions based on population.
- Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments.
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is **not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout** – this is the extension of our intergovernmental partnership, a critical local-federal bond that we seek in order to rebuild and restore the economic health of our great nation. We not only want America to survive, but thrive.

I urge you to include and support the above priorities in the next bill. Our community and our nation depend on it.

Sincerely,

[signature]

[full name]