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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lori Trahan
Member of Congress
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Financial Relief to States in Response to COVID-19

Dear Members of the 495/MetroWest Congressional Delegation,

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy on behalf of the communities, businesses, and residents of the 495/MetroWest region during this time of great uncertainty. On behalf of the 495/MetroWest Partnership, I am writing to request your support of federal financial relief to state governments in response to COVID-19, in an amount of at least \$500 billion.

As you are aware, the 495/MetroWest Partnership is a non-profit organization serving thirty-five communities, which are home to over 600,000 residents and approximately 1 in 10 jobs in the Commonwealth. The Partnership seeks to address regional needs through public-private collaboration by working to enhance economic vitality, improve quality of life, and sustain natural resources. The Partnership focuses on helping to alleviate regional constraints and limitations, and conducts numerous initiatives on transportation, workforce housing, and water resources, among other regional concerns.

A cornerstone of the Partnership's mission, since its inception, has been to serve as a voice for the municipalities within our service area, including the needs of municipal governments. The financial impact of COVID-19 on local governments cannot yet be fully known, but early evidence indicates that it will be significant.

The fiscal health of state governments will have direct bearing on how local governments, ultimately, are able to weather this crisis; municipal governments in Massachusetts receive varied, though substantial, portions of their revenues from the Commonwealth, and any reductions in state aid to cities and towns will impact local services and quality of life.

In light of this reality, the 495/MetroWest Partnership supports a further federal allocation of funding of at least \$500 billion in fiscal assistance to states, in response to COVID-19. We understand that many difficult decisions will be made in the coming weeks and months over how and where to allocate resources in response to this pandemic, as well as the political reality that consensus on many such efforts remains difficult to achieve. However, the need for further assistance to state and local governments, who must balance their budgets each fiscal year, is nation-wide and not confined to any particular region or ideology.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and advocacy on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to discuss our request further; I can be reached by phone at (508) 847-1139, or via email at Jason@495Partnership.org.

Sincerely,



Jason Palitsch
Executive Director
The 495/MetroWest Partnership

Cc: Governor Charles D. Baker
Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito
Members of the 495/MetroWest State Legislative Delegation