

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We are writing in strong support of the RELIEF for Main Street Act, a bipartisan effort developed by Senators Booker, Daines, and Murray and Representatives Kildee, Fitzpatrick, Evans, and Upton. The COVID-19 crisis is wreaking havoc on small businesses across cities, suburban municipalities and rural towns, particularly micro businesses that employ fewer than 20 employees and offer services vital for our communities -- restaurants, bars, coffee shops, barbershops, hair salons, auto repair shops, family farms, dry cleaners and many others. By empowering local leaders to administer flexible relief funds, and by targeting funding to only the smallest of businesses, the RELIEF for Main Street Act will provide immediate support to those less likely to benefit from existing programs, including very small, minority-owned, and rural businesses.

The proposal builds on what is already working. Across the country, states, cities, counties, and towns have established local relief funds to provide emergency support to small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These local funds, including those in our own cities and states, are led by a range of stakeholders, including city and county governments, public authorities, philanthropies, financial institutions and business chambers of commerce. Recognizing that no two communities are alike, local relief funds are tailored based on local capacity and the financial needs and conditions of local borrowers. All of these funds leverage distribution channels beyond traditional financial institutions, enabling them to reach a broader set of businesses more quickly, and with resources that meet the particular needs of very small businesses unexpectedly on the financial brink.

But local efforts are massively oversubscribed. Many of our local relief funds received requests for more funding than was available within days or even minutes of the application becoming available. The RELIEF for Main Street Act would build on our existing efforts by sending \$50 billion in direct assistance to cities, counties and states to seed and scale local funds. This will enable more small businesses to survive this economic crisis, ensuring that the recovery will be quicker and more evenly distributed across cities, suburbs and rural areas and regions of the

country. It will also enable our communities to evolve products and strategies that are more aligned with the reopening of the economy, particularly around the revival of Main Streets and other key business districts.

In concert with necessary state and local fiscal relief, the RELIEF for Main Street Act is a necessary complement to the small business support legislation you have already enacted and, given the urgency experienced by our Main Street businesses, strongly urge its inclusion in the next round of Congressional legislation.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA
Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark, NJ
Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC
Mayor David Holt, Oklahoma City, OK
Mayor Chris Mehl, Bozeman, MT
Mayor Jenny Durkan, Seattle, WA
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago, IL
Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, TX
Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando, FL
Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix, AZ
Mayor LaToya Cantrell, New Orleans, LA
Mayor Mike Duggan, Detroit, MI
Mayor Jim Kenney, Philadelphia, PA
Mayor Sheldon Neely, Flint, MI
Mayor Ron Nirenberg, San Antonio, TX
Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia, SC
Mayor Byron Brown, Buffalo, NY
Mayor Nadine Woodward, Spokane, WA
Mayor Steve Adler, Austin, TX
Mayor Azunnah Amutah, Edgewater Park, NJ
Mayor David Anderson, Kalamazoo, MI
Mayor Mark Behnke, Battle Creek, MI
Mayor Levar Stoney, Richmond, VA
Mayor Quinton Lucas, Kansas City, MO
Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Grand Rapids, MI
Mayor Noam Bramson, New Rochelle, NY
Mayor Lovely Warren, Rochester, NY
Mayor Ravi Bhalla, Hoboken, NJ
Mayor Tony Vauss, Irvington, NJ
Mayor Michael Venezia, Bloomfield, NJ
Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford, CT
Mayor Allen Pomraning, Walla Walla, WA
Mayor Regina Romero, Tucson, AZ
Mayor Jack Sims, Baltimore, MD

Mayor Melvin Carter, Saint Paul, MN
Mayor Robert Clark, Monroe, MI
Mayor Diane Delaware, Yazoo City, MS
Mayor Derek Dobies, Jackson, MI
Mayor Svante Myrick, Ithaca, NY
Mayor McKinley Price, Newport News, VA
Mayor Maureen Donker, Midland, MI
Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham, East Point, GA
Mayor Keith James, West Palm Beach, FL
Mayor Nan Whaley, Dayton, OH
Mayor William Johnson, Holly Hill, SC
Mayor Floyd Kloc, Saginaw, MI
Mayor Stephen Gawron, Muskegon, MI
Mayor William Johnson, Holly Hill, SC
Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa, AL
Mayor Dee Margo, El Paso, TX
Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise, ID
Mayor Wayne Messam, Miramar, FL
Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, WA
Mayor Malinda Miles, Mount Rainier, MD
Mayor Crystal Dinger, Ocean Shores, WA
Mayor Jim Sorensen, Elma, WA
Mayor Ben Wick, Spokane Valley, WA
Mayor Eulis Willis, Navassa, NC
Mayor Reed Gusciora, Trenton, NJ
Mayor Kathleen Newsham, Bay City, MI
Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle, Vancouver, WA
Mayor Marla Keethler, White Salmon, WA
Mayor Norma Hernandez, City of College Place, WA
Mayor John O'Reilly, Dearborn, MI
Mayor Ted Green, East Orange, NJ
Mayor Matt Pina, Des Moines, WA
Mayor Cassie Franklin, Everett, WA
Mayor Timothy Ragland, Talladega, AL
Mayor Pauline Repp, Port Huron, MI
Mayor Andy Schor, Lansing, MI
Mayor Jill Boudreau, Mount Vernon, WA
Mayor Barb Tolbert, Arlington, WA
Mayor Eugene Grant, Seat Pleasant, MD
Mayor Jeffrey Martin, Hamilton, NJ
Mayor Christopher Bollwage, Elizabeth, NJ
Mayor Frank Scott, Little Rock, AR
Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, WA
Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, WA
Mayor Nicola Smith, Lynnwood, WA
Mayor Kate Dexter, Port Angeles, WA

Mayor Christopher Taylor, Ann Arbor, MI
Mayor Michael Taylor, Sterling Heights, MI
Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, WA
Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, WA
Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue, WA
Mayor Dr. Larry Wallace, Manor, TX
Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman, Pontiac, MI
Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Baton Rouge, LA
Mayor Andre Sayegh, Paterson, NJ
Mayor William Wild, Westland, MI
Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake County, UT
Mayor Victoria Woodards, Tacoma, WA
Mayor Frank Moran, Camden, NJ
Mayor Jesse Tweedle, Pleasantville, NJ
Mayor Hector Lora, Passaic, NJ
Mayor Susan Shin Angulo, Cherry Hill, NJ
Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way, WA
Mayor Allan Eckberg, Tukwila, WA
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, WA
Mayor Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee, WA