



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are grateful for your efforts to address the needs of millions of Americans during these challenging times as all levels of government address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are also appreciative of your understanding of the burdens that counties – large and small - face as they work to respond to this crisis in order to keep their residents healthy and safe. However, we are concerned that the COVID-19 relief packages considered thus far have not provided direct funding to stabilize smaller counties, particularly those with populations under 500,000. As such, RCRC urges you to include direct stabilization funding to such localities in the next COVID-19 response bill, or to lower the threshold for direct funding through the Coronavirus Response Fund to counties with smaller populations, of which there are more 30 of California's 58 counties.

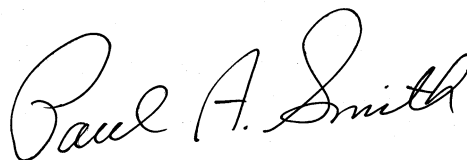
RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. With all but a handful of members, RCRC's membership consists of counties which have less than 500,000 residents. Like their larger neighbors, though, our member counties face enormous costs while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. These costs include, but are not limited to: 1) deploying timely public service announcements to keep their respective residents informed; 2) rapidly activating emergency operations; 3) preparing employees for telework to keep vital county services running; and, 4) providing direct health care services. This work is essential to keeping California's rural residents safe while stopping the rapid spread of COVID-19. RCRC member counties are unanimous in stating that, without targeted stabilization funding, smaller counties will be unable to continue providing these critical services at any meaningful rate in which they are currently performing.

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We applaud you and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives for including a \$200 billion Coronavirus Response Fund as part of H.R. 6379, the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act, which provides \$50 billion more than the Senate package. However, we are concerned that, in both the House and Senate bills, counties with populations under 500,000 cannot receive stabilization funds directly. As you work to craft the next package to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include direct stabilization funding to localities with populations under 500,000, or to lower the threshold for direct funding through the Coronavirus Response Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of RCRC's request. We stand ready to work with you as we continue to provide much-needed relief for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAUL A. SMITH
Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Member of the U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kamala Harris, Member of the U.S. Senate
The Honorable Doug La Malfa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Garamendi, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Doris Matsui, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Cook, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Costa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable TJ Cox, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Devin G. Nunes, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Salud Carbajal, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Juan C. Vargas, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
Matt Chase, National Association of Counties