



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Joe Neguse  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Neguse:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we offer our strong support for your “Coronavirus Community Relief Act,” which provide \$250 billion in stabilization funds for local communities, cities, and towns with a population of 500,000 or less that are struggling amidst the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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. These vital services are occurring as many California rural counties – much like rural counties in Colorado - are facing significant reductions in transient occupancy tax and sales tax receipts. 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.

We appreciate your efforts for addressing what we believe is an oversight in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act -- the CARES Act -- that concerns counties with populations under 500,000 in not being able to receive stabilization funds directly. Direct stabilization funds support is critical to ensure local governments continue to deliver services to small communities in time when revenue has dwindled. Your bill ensures that localities with a population of 500,000 or less receives direct stabilization funds to address the outbreak as well as recover once the public health emergency has passed.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

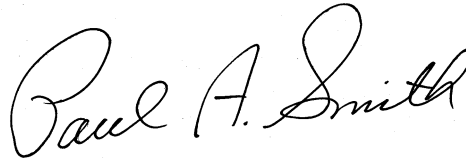
The Honorable Joe Neguse

April 9, 2020

Page 2

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [psmith@rcrcnet.org](mailto:psmith@rcrcnet.org) or (916) 447-4806, or RCRC's legislative advocate in Washington D.C., Sheryl Cohen at [cohen@acg-consultants.com](mailto:cohen@acg-consultants.com) or (202) 327-8100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

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