



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Paul Cook  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: H.R. 7090 – Coronavirus County Relief and Stability Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Cook:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we offer our strong support for your H.R. 7090, the Coronavirus County Relief and Stability Act, which would provide additional federal relief funding to counties that are struggling amidst the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as reauthorize the federal Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for five years. 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.

The recently-enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides monies directly to counties and cities with populations in excess of 500,000. Counties of less than 500,000 must obtain allocations through the State of California since they do not meet the population threshold required to receive direct federal assistance. Your legislation eliminates a population threshold, thereby allowing every county to directly access federal financial assistance. The Coronavirus County Relief and Stability Act provides a \$1 million base to each and every county and allocates funds above the \$1 million base on the overall population of each county. Furthermore, the legislation provides much-needed flexible aid, which can be spent on wide range of purposes, including backfilling revenue losses as well as efforts to respond to the outbreak and address other budget shortfalls.

Finally, the Coronavirus County Relief and Stability Act would authorize the federal PILT program in Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2026. As you know, the PILT program funding is vital for many of California's counties, particularly rural counties that contain significant federal land, and consider these funds as a sizeable share of their county's general fund budget. California's rural counties use the PILT program to provide critical services. Unfortunately, many counties have had to use county general

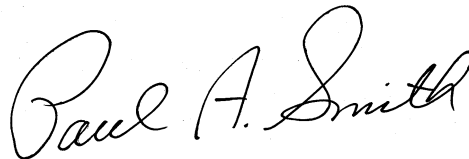
The Honorable Paul Cook  
H.R. 7090  
June 5, 2020  
Page 2

fund dollars to support COVID-19 pandemic responses – public health programs, enhanced law enforcement services, etc.

RCRC appreciates your legislation for promoting relief funds and reauthorization of PILT to counties. We greatly appreciate your recognition that people living in smaller counties deserve the same level of assistance as those living in larger, urban areas. Your legislation ensures that counties will receive significant funding to address the outbreak as well as recover once the public health emergency has passed.

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,



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  
Members of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors  
Members of the Mono County Board of Supervisors