



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write today to advocate on behalf of states, territories, counties, cities and towns, all of which are experiencing historic budget shortfalls as they continue to respond to the pandemic. In less than two days, the budget years for 45 states and thousands of local governments will begin. Unlike the federal government, these state and local governments must begin their fiscal years on time and with a balanced budget. If the Senate fails to act immediately to support state and local governments, our nation’s recovery from the pandemic-induced recession will suffer and millions of Americans will needlessly be harmed.

Previous federal bills responding to COVID-19 provided important support, many through well-established grant programs, yet none allow for the replacement of billions of lost revenue due to COVID-19. More robust and direct stimulus is needed for state and local governments to both rebuild the economy and maintain essential services in education, health care, emergency operations, public safety and more.

As we move closer to the end of the budget year, furloughs and job cuts are on the table for many states and localities. These jobs losses not only affect the provision of government services, but also add to state unemployment. The damage will get far worse without federal assistance, forcing drastic cuts that will further delay and cancel infrastructure projects, as at least 26 states have announced construction delays for transportation projects. The loss of such projects will ripple through states’ construction industry, delaying recovery further.

State and local governments also purchase goods and services which add to the nation’s output, and in 2019, state and local governments’ purchases accounted for 11 percent of GDP. When these activities slow down, there is an effect on the nation’s economy. Alarming, CBO’s June letter on its forecast of Gross Domestic Product for 2020 and

2021 found that “state and local governments’ purchases of goods and services fell by \$350 billion, making up 9 percent of the total decline in GDP.

Nearly 15 million Americans are employed by state and local governments. Teachers, first responders and emergency medical service workers are on the front lines of this crisis doing the essential work of the country. Government employment continues to suffer substantial losses with over 1.6 million state and local government jobs lost since March.

Leaders in Washington have expressed support for flexible fiscal aid to states and localities of all sizes. Yet months have gone by and our communities continue to suffer. Americans have a history of standing together in times of crisis and must do so now.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities  
ACT, Inc.  
AECOM  
Alabama League of Municipalities  
Alaska Municipal League  
Alkermes  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Beverage Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Gas Association  
American Hotel & Lodging Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
American Planning Association  
American Public Human Services Association  
American Public Power Association  
American Public Works Association (APWA)  
American Shore & Beach Preservation Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
AmeriHealth Caritas  
Anthem  
Arizona Association of Counties  
Arkansas Municipal League  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
Association of Arkansas Counties  
Association of County Commissions of Alabama  
Association of Financial Guaranty Insurers  
Association of Indiana Counties  
Association of Minnesota Counties  
Association of Oregon Counties  
Association of Washington Cities  
Axxess  
BrightSpring Health Services  
California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC)  
California State Association of Counties

Center for Public Safety Management  
Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association  
CGI Communications, Inc.  
Coast Builders Coalition  
Colorado Municipal League  
CompTIA - Computing Technology Industry Association  
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities  
County Commissioners Association of Ohio  
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
County Commissioners Association of West Virginia  
County Executives of America  
Credit Union National Association (CUNA)  
Data Center Coalition  
Delaware League of Local Governments  
Dexcom  
Esri, Inc  
Florida Association of Counties  
Florida League of Cities  
Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association  
Georgia Municipal Association  
GIIA  
GoRail  
Government Finance Officers Association  
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock  
IBM  
Illinois Municipal League  
Illinois State Association of Counties  
Institute for Building Technology and Safety  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
International City/County Management Association  
International Municipal Lawyers Association, Inc.  
Internet Association  
Intuit Inc.  
Iowa League of Cities  
Iowa State Association of Counties  
ITC Holdings Inc.  
Jersey Shore Partnership  
Johnson & Johnson  
Kansas Association of Counties  
Kentucky Association of Counties  
Land O'Lakes Inc.  
Large Public Power Council  
League of Arizona Cities and Towns  
League of California Cities  
League of Kansas Municipalities  
League of Minnesota Cities  
League of Nebraska Municipalities  
League of Oregon Cities  
League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
Louisiana Municipal Association  
Magna

Maine Municipal Association  
Maryland Association of Counties  
Maryland Municipal League  
Massachusetts Coastal Coalition  
Massachusetts Municipal Association  
Michigan Association of Counties  
Michigan Municipal League  
Mississippi Association of Supervisors  
Mississippi Municipal League  
Motorola Solutions, Inc.  
Municipal Association of South Carolina  
NACBHDD and NARMH  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO)  
National Association of Bond Lawyers  
National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers & Finance Officers (NACCTFO)  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County Engineers  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers  
National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO)  
National Association of State Treasurers  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Community Development Association  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
National Governors Association  
National Emergency Management Association  
National League of Cities  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc (NOBCO)  
National Workforce Association  
Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Netsmart  
Nevada Association of Counties  
New Jersey Association of Counties  
New Jersey State League of Municipalities  
New Mexico Counties  
New York State Association of Counties  
New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials  
NIC  
North Carolina League of Municipalities  
North Dakota Association of Counties  
North Dakota League of Cities  
NWEA  
Ohio Municipal League  
Oklahoma Municipal League  
PACENation

Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care  
Pennsylvania Municipal League  
Police Jury Association of Louisiana  
Port of Walla Walla  
ResCare Workforce Services  
Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Siemens  
Sourcewell  
South Dakota Municipal League  
Southern California Edison  
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA)  
TechNet  
Tennessee County Services Association  
Tennessee Municipal League  
Texas Association of Counties  
Texas Municipal League  
The Coca-Cola Company  
The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital  
The Council of State Governments  
The Design-Build Institute of America  
The United States Conference of Mayors  
three+one  
Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care  
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA)  
U.S. Water Alliance  
United Counties Council of Illinois  
Utah League of Cities and Towns  
Vermont League of Cities and Towns  
Virginia Association of Counties  
Virginia Municipal League  
Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA)  
Washington State Association of Counties  
West Virginia Association of Counties  
West Virginia Municipal League  
Wisconsin Counties Association  
Wisconsin County Highway Association  
Wyoming Association of Municipalities  
Wyoming County Commissioners Association