

Aug. 3, 2020

President Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Michigan's economy is hurting, and we need your help to make it strong again.

For our local governments, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing our tax revenues to dry up, as local employers and employees struggle with the challenges of re-opening, re-engineering their businesses to operate in accordance with health and safety guidelines, and trying to retain their customer base. We see our constituents needing more services than ever before, from providing flexible local regulations, to ensuring our first responders can protect those in need, or having access to clean drinking water and safe streets.

In fact, the National League of Cities has estimated our local governments in Michigan will lose 37 percent of revenues, putting the Great Lakes State as fourth highest in the nation in projected revenue losses for communities, just behind Kentucky.

We need you to ask Congress to move quickly to help us fill those gaps by supporting \$375 billion in direct flexible aid for communities of all sizes, or the economic downturn Michigan now faces will linger even longer.

When cities suffer, economists tell us that local businesses also suffer. Businesses value and need police and fire protection, road repairs, parks, effective permitting, safe streets, and other services that our communities provide. Without strong funding support, recovery will take longer to achieve. Even more directly, businesses will see immediate impacts from canceled or delayed water, sewer, road and bridge projects. They will feel the impact of lost revenue from other canceled or scaled-back contracts for goods and services that Michigan's local governments can no longer afford.

As a result, many communities are laying off workers and making dramatic budget cuts. In Kalamazoo, 165 employees, or 25 percent of the municipal workforce, had their hours cut by up to 50 percent. In Westland, 66 percent of non-public safety employees were put on furlough and the City of Grand Rapids forecast a \$23 million revenue hit. The City of Detroit faces about a 20 percent shortfall in its revenues, and fire and police will be forced to take on some of those cuts. Around the state, first responders make up nearly half of municipal spending – and without federal help, they will be pushed into the unemployment line.

We are asking for your assistance in securing additional direct support for cities of all sizes. The current version of the HEALS Act does not include additional funds that local governments need to survive the effects of the pandemic and aid the economic recovery. This omission is a significant concern for us and the voters we all represent.



We encourage you to hear your Michigan constituents, and impress on the Senate and House the need for additional direct aid to communities of all sizes. We join the National League of Cities in seeking \$375 billion in direct financial assistance to cities, towns, and villages across the nation. This support is vital if America is to recover quickly from the damage inflicted by COVID-19.

Thank you for your interest and your support. If we all work together, we can help make our cities, states and nation strong, vibrant tools for business and employment growth.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Gilmartin
Executive Director & CEO

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