

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

As Congress works to address the devastating effects of the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis, we applaud your efforts to keep our communities safe and to protect workers, businesses, and the broader economy from the impacts of this crisis.

As representatives of more than 250 members of the Business Community of the Metropolitan Washington region, we write today to express serious concern over the allocation of funding for the District of Columbia in the CARES Act. The relief package allocated at least \$1.25 billion in direct payments to every state, but allocates only \$500 million to the District of Columbia by treating it the same way as a territory. We urge you to correct for this funding shortfall in future legislative action and ensure adequate support for the District of Columbia for the purposes of relief going forward. We ask you to consider the following information in the context of this critical issue:

- The District of Columbia is being hit especially hard during the crisis. As of April 20, the District has almost 2,800 confirmed coronavirus cases, which outpaces nearly two dozen states. It has also been designated as an emerging “hot spot” for the virus.
- The District is not only the Nation’s Capital in which the Capitol and White House are located, but it also is also home to more than 700,000 residents—making it more populous than some states—and, as a densely populated urban center, the District is especially vulnerable to the spread of the virus. These residents need access to the same support that has been granted to other parts of the country.
- Due to strong oversight and sound fiscal management, the District entered this crisis in a strong financial position, but it is already experiencing significant economic losses due to the ongoing public health emergency. The District’s tourism, hospitality, and restaurant industries, along with its world-class colleges and universities, are already suffering, as are small businesses throughout the District. Current estimates project revenue losses of more than \$600 million by the end of September.
- The District’s contributions to the federal government are unique and substantial. Not only do DC residents contribute more federal income taxes on a per capita basis than any other state or territory, but the District is also the seat of the federal government and is thus obligated to protect the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of federal workers.
- This deadly virus is not limited to any particular geographical boundary. Jeopardizing the District’s ability to respond to the crisis puts the entire region at an increased risk.

It is critical that the District of Columbia receives the funding it needs to ensure that adequate services can be provided both to official federal Washington and to District residents and visitors. As members of the business community of the Metropolitan Washington region, we urge the federal government to ensure that the District of Columbia receives no less than the minimum allocation of \$1.25 billion provided to each state in the CARES Act via the Coronavirus Relief Fund program, and to ensure adequate support for the District in all future Congressional actions taken to rescue and recover from this global health pandemic. This aid is essential to the District government's ability to protect its residents, federal employees, and its economy.

The undersigned organizations support this important effort—and support is still growing. We come together to urge you to support this policy change and the region's collective response to this public health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Federal City Council
Greater Washington Board of Trade
District of Columbia Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Washington Partnership
The 2030 Group
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce
Monumental Sports & Entertainment
Marriott International, Inc.
Graham Holdings Company
United Bankshares, Inc.
WC Smith
Urban Land Institute
EDENS
Hines
Washington Gas
The Donohoe Companies, Inc.
Restaurant Association of Metropolitan
Washington
Hoffman + Associates
American Beverage Association
ECS Federal, LLC
Akridge
CityBridge
Washingtonian Magazine
HOK Inc.
Winged Keel Group, Inc.
Savills, Inc.
Finn Partners, Inc.
Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP
Martin Diamond Properties
Miller & Long DC, Inc.
Jackson & Campbell, PC

The LINE Hotel
Hickok Cole Architects, Inc.
The Wilkes Company
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLC
Fort Lincoln Realty
SRB Communications, LLC
SmithGroup
Bennett Group
The Levy Group
EYA, LLC
Wingate Hughes Architects, PLLC
Roadside Development
Goulston & Storrs
Doggett Enterprises, Inc.
Georgetown Suites Hotel
Bazilio Cobb Associates PC
SRB Communications
Carr Properties
STUDIOS Architecture
Abdo Development LLC
Julyan & Julyan
The Hill Group, Inc.
Landmark Parking, Inc.
Gorove/Slade Associates Inc.
The Concordia Group
Community Three Development
Georgetown University
Trinity Washington University
Howard University
Trent & Co.
Redbrick LMD
Western Development Corporation
BELL Architects, PC
Compass Realty

Corenic Construction Group, LLC
Marcus Asset Group, Inc.
SCahill LLC
Flywheel Development LLC
Bohler DC
Dantes Partners LLC
Perseus TDC
Bundy Development Corporation
CSG Urban Partners LLC
Lourenco Consultants Inc.
Eagle Integrated Solutions LLC
Teass Warren Architects
UIP Property Management, Inc.
Property Group Partners Development,
LLC
David M. Schwarz Architects, Inc.
Critical Systems, LLC
Pillar Construction, Inc.
Republic Properties Corporation
Colonial Parking, Inc.
Studio Crowley Hall pllc
Taylor Adams Associates
Guggenheim Parking Inc.
Broughton Construction Company LLC
Friedman Capital
The Excalibur Group
D. H. Lloyd & Associates Inc.
Bridging Technologies LLC
RMS Investment Group
J Street Companies
Eastbanc Technologies
Adrian L. Merton Inc.
Oliva Consulting, Inc.
American Management Corporation
Linda Roth Associates Inc
Tildora Systems LLC
Sustainable Facilities Management
Services
Smoot Construction of DC
National Mall Coalition
Destination DC
JMA Solutions, LLC
AmeriHealth Caritas District of
Columbia
Plenary Enterprises
Cordia Partners
Dinan Associates
Bluestone Lane
TransitScreen
The Phoenix
Sweet Science Coffee

OceanPro Industries Ltd
Hopscotch Ventures
Ideal Electrical Supply
DP Consultants, Inc.
Clear Real Estate Services, LLC
City Permit
Urban Pace
Misra Law PLLC
Atlantic Services Group, Inc.
Halcyon Georgetown LLC
Hemphill Artworks LLC
Lars Etzkorn Law PLLC
Oculus Realty, LLC
Inscape Studio
Reston Limousine Service
District Cutlery
Healing Hands Physical Therapy
Services
Al's Twin Air, LLC
Abstract Orange
The Ford Agency, Inc.
Dimples Dental Suite
Jefferson Apartment Group
Fitness Destino LLC
Modern Trousseau DC
J R Jennings Enterprises LLC
Olivia Macaron
CMIT Solutions of Capitol Hill
Natural Healing Products LLC
Nai Xander, Inc.
Peak Technology Solutions, Inc.
Lyn-Phill Construction, LLC
O Museum in the Mansion
Executive Contractors LLC
Green Step LLC
Shepherd Electric Supply of
Washington DC LLC
PT2SO Investments LLC
Global Government and Industry
Partners, LLC
PIR Marketing
Help Unlimited Temps
DC Fire Protection LLC
Premium Title & Escrow, LLC
XediaLabs
Alpha Power and Alarm Company
Daylily Landscaping LLC
A&A Rental Station
JLA Law
Code IT Inc.
Church Hall DC

EMB International, LLC
The Jackson Investment Company, LLC
Cultural Tourism DC, Inc.
Georgetown Business Improvement
District
Capitol Riverfront BID
District of Columbia Hospital
Association
Eastern Market Main Street
Hayat Brown LLC
H.H. Leonards, Associates
Prognosis, LLC
CNM Global LLC
Newton Grange Consulting
Venturi
Danna's Joy LLC
Carleton Holdings
Ristorante Piccolo
14th Mini Market
727 Market
7-Eleven 14th St NW
Agua 301
All Souls Bar
Ambassador Restaurant
Brightwood Mart
Cafe Divan
Capitol Hill Exxon
Capitol Hill Care Pharmacy
Cinder Neighborhood BBQ
Columbia Heights Pharmacy
Dollar 1
Eclectic Café
Elsa Kitchen
Exxon Columbia Heights Gas Station
Georgetown Exxon
Georgetown Shell
Here's The Scoop
Jamaican County Kitchen
Keren Cafe & Restaurant
Lamont Market
Metro Motor Towing
Naanwise Indian Cuisine
Neighborhood Pharmacy
Parkers Exxon
Peaches Kitchen
Penn Ave Exxon
Petworth Market
Pho Viet
Pizza Mart
Rolands Grocery
Rosemarino d'itali

Say Cheese!
Seven Market
Sospeso
The Coffee Bar
Sprig and Sprout
Teddy's Roti Shop
Toki Underground
The Corner Market
The Capital Candy Jar
Carleton Holdings
DC Life Safety, LLC
Center for the Creative Economy
National Federation of Federal
Employees of the IAM-AW/AFL CIO
NRGCO Court Reporters and
Transcribers
CCS LLC
College Track
Washington Performing Arts
Essential Media Partners
Wiles Mensch Corporation - DC
Align Development
The Nicholson Project
DMV Food Truck Association
Blossom Dentistry PLLC
Russin & Vecchi PC
Multi-Therapeutic Service, Inc.
Il Canale
Harris & Associates LLC