



April 22, 2020

The Honorable Scott Tipton
Member of Congress
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton,

In regards to your letter dated April 17, and your Facebook post dated April 18, it is troubling that you continue to proliferate misinformation related to the \$1.7 billion in Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars the state and its local governments are slated to benefit from. As the administration indicated in a communication from last Friday, no decision has been made regarding how that limited funding will be allocated, though we do know that regardless of how it is spent, it is not nearly enough to meet the significant needs of both the state and its local governments.

As you well know, the bill you and Congress developed not only reduced the requested funding needed for state governments but inexplicably prohibited communities of 500,000 or less from accessing direct aid dollars. What's more, we continue to wait on guidance related to acceptable uses of those funds from the federal government, further confusing what is an already tremendously challenging budget environment for the state and its cities and counties.

We remain unclear why Congress chose to strictly prohibit communities of 500,000 or less from directly accessing aid dollars in the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. But as you know, the result of that decision is that the state of Colorado, the City and County of Denver, Adams County, Jefferson County, Arapahoe County and El Paso County are the only governments who have direct access to this much needed relief, with other local governments reliant on the state to make these painful funding choices. As you and your Colorado Congressional Delegation colleagues indicated in a letter dated April 21, "Congress should not be picking winners and losers in our nationwide recovery." We couldn't agree more.

I strongly support Congressman Neguse's bill which requests that future stimulus packages include funding specifically for localities with populations under 500,000, and Congressman Perlmutter's bill that provides an additional \$500 billion in flexible funding to ensure that Colorado communities, especially our small rural communities, have the resources they need to recover.

We want our small cities and counties to receive necessary funding to recover from this crisis in the form of direct aid. To that end, we have joined with CML and CCI as well as federal and local elected officials in continuing to advocate for both additional funding for state and local government and flexibility in how those dollars are allocated and spent, and we've been engaged in that advocacy for weeks now. We would hope you are also doing everything you can to support the small communities and the state you were elected to represent to ensure Colorado and its local governments receive the aid we so desperately need to bounce back from this exceptionally challenging pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor