



April 10, 2020

Regarding: COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Bill Phase IV

Dear Ohio Congressional Delegation:

Firstly, thank you for the direct support you provided to small businesses within the CARES Act, which is critically important to their survival. We understand that additional steps need to be taken but we appreciate the continued recognition that Congress places on the important role small businesses play in the national economy.

We write you today to urge your swift passage of the COVID-19 Phase IV stimulus package to provide small businesses and nonprofits with the support they need to endure this pandemic. For many, time is of the essence and so additional resources are needed, now, to lessen the long-term challenges to our economy and ensure that when the health crisis diminishes, there will be businesses left to employ the thousands of workers who are now out of work.

As you develop the next phase of federal stimulus in response to COVID-19, we wanted to bring your attention to a specific provision that was removed from the CARES Act, regarding chambers of commerce and trade associations. **The language stripped from Phase III that barred organizations like ours from utilizing the various forms of relief has exasperated the ability of chambers of commerce to endure this pandemic.**

Chambers of commerce serve a unique role in helping communities through crisis. They routinely rally and connect businesses to resources and provide expertise to businesses dealing with complex challenges. Chambers are well positioned to enhance and accelerate COVID-19 recovery efforts in their communities, and we have all dedicated time and resources to doing so in our respective communities across Ohio.

We believe chambers of commerce are uniquely qualified to serve as hubs of information for the business community during a crisis like this and have experienced large numbers of businesses turning to us for guidance. In response, each of our organizations have taken a lead role in connecting businesses with critical information and resources in response to COVID-19. At a time when thousands of businesses are relying on us for this level of engagement and connectivity, our ability to continue actively serving businesses is more critical than ever. **Because of this, we respectfully ask that you include organizations like chambers of commerce, organized as 501(c)6 entities, in any additional stimulus package that is agreed to.**

We will continue working on our members' behalf throughout this pandemic and hope that we, as chambers of commerce, can utilize the support being provided through Congress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Millard
President & CEO
Greater Akron Chamber



Dennis P. Saunier
President & CEO
Canton Regional Chamber



Jill P. Meyer
President & CEO
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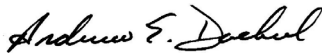
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