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July 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Thank you for your commitment to negotiating an additional piece of legislation to deliver much-needed relief to the American people during this public health emergency.

It is imperative that a final package include significant and targeted funding to ensure that we can continue to build and implement a national testing and contact tracing strategy. This must also include specific funds to expand laboratory capacity to ensure that we can properly increase testing capacity. There are reports of Arizonans waiting up to two weeks for test results. Delayed results in testing renders even limited contact tracing efforts almost useless. This is completely unacceptable more than four months into a national emergency. I strongly agree with you on the need to focus on COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, and I thank you for continuing this fight in the next COVID-19 package.

Further, I ask that you closely consider pieces of my legislation that would ensure our communities are able to recover from the widespread impacts of COVID-19 and that local economies will not fall further behind.

First, I ask that you include the text of H.R. 7557, in addition to increased financial support for tribal governments. I appreciate all that you have done thus far to ensure that Native Americans are included in your efforts to provide relief, particularly as Native American communities have been hit disproportionately hard by the pandemic. However, more must be done. Tribes must have flexibility to use the funding they received under the CARES Act properly and effectively.

Second, I request that you include H.R. 7056 to award funding to tribal governments through the Indian Health Services (IHS) Sanitation Facilities Construction Program. I know that you understand that this bill will have an immediate and lasting impact on building water systems and improving public health in Indian Country. As you know, the need to provide clean and safe drinking water to tribal communities has never been more critical. Your support for this provision in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act demonstrates your commitment to Indian Country.

Third, I ask that you incorporate H.R. 7494, the *Broadband Adoption and Opportunity Act*, which would establish an innovative pilot program within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) using public-private partnerships to refurbish connected devices so students, families, and workers may better access broadband connectivity. As you know, COVID-19 has heightened the need for broadband and Internet-connected devices throughout America. This project prioritizes partnerships that serve counties of significant need, and makes refurbished, connected devices available to underserved individuals through donation, lending, or low-cost purchasing programs. This will ensure that children without access to broadband are able to continue learning regardless of whether they are physically in the classroom.

America cannot wait any longer for action. Once again, thank you for your prompt attention to my requests and for all your hard work for the American people.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress