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TOM O'HALLERAN

1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

I am writing to share my concern with you regarding the recent reports that additional financial support for State, local and Tribal governments is not being considered in the next legislative package that Congress is expected to consider this week. I am disappointed by this news.

State, local, and Tribal governments provide crucial services that are necessary for communities and their citizens to overcome times of incredible adversity. Local tax bases have been ravaged by the sudden drop in revenues combined with unexpected expenses associated with purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 testing kits. Even worse, the funding formula used in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* is insufficient for rural Arizona. In fact, 13 out of 15 Arizona counties did not receive any federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that was authorized by the *CARES Act*.

These rural communities are reliant on sales tax revenues to continue to provide these necessary services and those have plummeted. Communities like Flagstaff, Arizona are expected to be hit the hardest in the economic fallout from this crisis¹. It is essential that they receive money quickly, and States should not be given the opportunity to divert the federal funds. Simply put, for rural America to survive this pandemic, small-population counties and communities need to be provided with resources quickly. I urge you to reconsider this decision prior to the next legislative package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran".

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

¹ "The places a COVID-19 recession will likely hit hardest," Brookings Institution, April 20, 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/03/17/the-places-a-covid-19-recession-will-likely-hit-hardest/>