

July 27, 2020

GREENSBORO  
Mayor Nancy Vaughan  
Chair

GOLDSBORO  
Mayor Chuck Allen  
Vice Chair

CHAPEL HILL  
Mayor Pam Hemminger  
Treasurer

ASHEVILLE  
Mayor Esther Manheimer  
Past Chair

APEX  
Mayor Jacques Gilbert

BOONE  
Mayor Rennie Brantz

BURLINGTON  
Mayor Ian Baltutis

CARRBORO  
Mayor Lydia Lavelle

CARY  
Mayor Harold Weinbrecht

CHARLOTTE  
Mayor Vi Lyles

CONCORD  
Mayor Bill Dusch

CORNELIUS  
Mayor Woody Washam

DURHAM  
Mayor Steve Schewel

FAYETTEVILLE  
Mayor Mitch Colvin

FUQUAY-VARINA  
Mayor John W. Byrne

GASTONIA  
Mayor Walker Reid

GREENVILLE  
Mayor P.J. Connelly

HICKORY  
Mayor Hank Guess

HOLLY SPRINGS  
Mayor Dick Sears

KANNAPOLIS  
Mayor Darrell Hinnant

MATTHEWS  
Mayor John F. Higdon

MOORESVILLE  
Mayor Miles Atkins

NEW BERN  
Mayor Dana Outlaw

RALEIGH  
Mayor Mary Ann Baldwin

ROCKY MOUNT  
Mayor Sandy Roberson

SALISBURY  
Mayor Karen Alexander

STATESVILLE  
Mayor Costi Kutteh

WILMINGTON  
Mayor Bill Saffo

WILSON  
Mayor Carleton Stevens

WINSTON-SALEM  
Mayor Allen Joines

DIRECTOR  
William A. (Beau) Mills  
Beau.mills@metromayors.com  
(919) 637-0873  
www.ncmetromayors.com

The Honorable Richard Burr  
The Honorable Thom Tillis  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senators Burr and Tillis:

We, the mayors of North Carolina's larger cities and towns, come together to urge you to lead and support efforts to include local emergency fiscal assistance in the final version of the next CARES legislative relief package, which is currently under consideration.

Municipal governments, along with our state and county partners, continue to participate on the frontlines in combatting the COVID-19 virus. While fighting the pandemic to mitigate its spread, we are working to safely reignite our economies and reimagining how to bring back social engagement with a sense of certainty to our communities. Simultaneously, we are addressing potentially catastrophic decreases in revenues as a casualty in this battle, revenues that support the critical services provided to our citizens and the state's economy. Our cities are facing dire long-term budget forecasts as the country faces the growing threat of a recession.

Our cities and towns are at the heart of North Carolina's metro economies, the regional economic engines that account for over 86% of the gross state product. We provide essential infrastructure that underpin our economy, the foundational investments that will help propel recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, our cities invest heavily in the transportation systems to connect people to jobs and the water resources that serve residents and industry. We learned during the Great Recession that if the economic engines in our cities lag in their revenues and investment, they become a drag on the entire state's recovery, so helping our cities will help ALL North Carolinians. We will persevere against this disaster – but we need significant fiscal relief and economic recovery assistance from Washington to help bring us back from this crisis.

We implore you to provide **direct and flexible emergency stabilization funding to cities** for the coming year to support us in this battle. The federal funds need to be directed to cities in a way that avoids delay or redirection by state and county governments. We need the flexibility to rebuild our economy and ensure that we can continue to provide essential services, including police, fire, community development and public works as this crisis continues.

We appreciate the leadership our Congressional delegation provides in Washington, we need our Senators to help, now more than ever!

Respectfully,

Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Greensboro

Mayor Esther Manheimer, Asheville

Mayor Chuck Allen, Goldsboro

Mayor Pam Hemminger, Chapel Hill



Mayor Ian Baltutis, Burlington



Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Cary



Mayor Bill Dusch, Concord



Mayor Steve Schewel, Durham



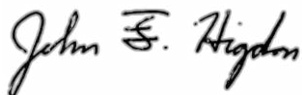
Mayor John Byrne, Fuquay-Varina



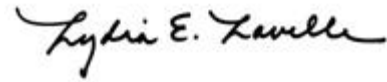
Mayor P.J. Connelly, Greenville



Mayor Dick Sears, Holly Springs



Mayor John F. Higdon, Matthews



Mayor Lydia Lavalle, Carrboro



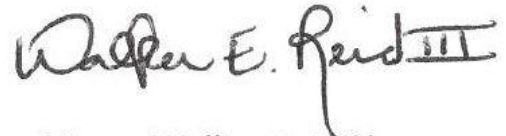
Mayor Vi Lyles, Charlotte



Mayor Woody Washam, Cornelius



Mayor Mitch Colvin, Fayetteville



Mayor Walker Reid, Gastonia

Hank L. GUESS

Mayor Hank Guess, Hickory



Mayor Darrell Hinnant, Kannapolis



Mayor Miles Atkins, Mooresville

Mary-Ann Baldwin

Mayor Mary Ann Baldwin, Raleigh

Sandy Roberson

Mayor Sandy Roberson, Rocky Mount

Karen Alexander

Mayor Karen Alexander, Salisbury

Costi Kutteh

Mayor Costi Kutteh, Statesville

Bill Saffo

Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington

Carleton Stevens

Mayor Carleton Stevens, Wilson

Allen Joines

Mayor Allen Joines, Winston-Salem