

July 27, 2020

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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



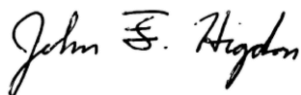
Mayor John Byrne, Fuquay-Varina



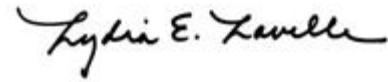
Mayor P.J. Connelly, Greenville



Mayor Dick Sears, Holly Springs



Mayor John F. Higdon, Matthews



Mayor Lydia Lavalle, Carrboro



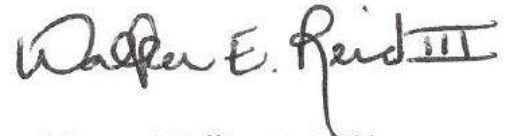
Mayor Vi Lyles, Charlotte



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

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Mayor Karen Alexander, Salisbury

Costi Kutteh

Mayor Costi Kutteh, Statesville

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Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington

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Mayor Carleton Stevens, Wilson

Allen Joines

Mayor Allen Joines, Winston-Salem