September 9, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
(Sent Via Email)

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
(Sent Via Email)

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
(Sent Via Email)

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
(Sent Via Email)

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

RE: Support for Inclusion of the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act in the Next Must-Pass/Legislative/Spending Vehicle

On behalf of the nation's state, territory, and local governments, we urge the inclusion of the bipartisan *State, Local Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* (S. 3011/H.R. 5735) in the next legislative or spending vehicle so that it can be signed into law. This legislation, approved by unanimous consent in the Senate on October 19, 2021, would provide additional flexibility under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and assist with the implementation of this major new program.

Since the enactment of ARPA, we have been working collaboratively with our respective memberships, the White House and the U.S. Department of the Treasury to implement the $350 billion provided under the law. We believe that this new legislation would both streamline and strengthen this historic program in a number of key ways, including:

- Allowing the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of the total ARPA allocation provided to a state or local government to be used under a new, separate provision that further allows infrastructure- related activities authorized under federal surface transportation laws or Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

- Allowing CSLFRF funding to be used to provide, "emergency relief from natural disasters or the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs."

- Providing the Department of the Treasury with flexibility in its use of administrative funds to continue to advise and support our member governments as they carry out crucial programs including the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Absent this flexibility, we are very concerned that Treasury's diminished capacity to administer these programs will hamper our efforts to spend funds effectively to respond to the needs of our residents across the country.

America's state, territory, and local governments have been engaged in our nation's response to COVID-19 since the earliest days; and providing these governments with flexible, essential financial resources is the surest way to see that our nation's preparedness and responsivity continue. As intergovernmental partners, we thank you for the support provided through ARPA and respectfully ask you to include S. 3011/H.R. 5735 - inclusive of all provisions contained within the legislation - in the next legislative or spending vehicle to help achieve our shared goals of mitigating, responding to and fostering a transformational recovery from the unprecedented national pandemic.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The United States Conference
of Mayors

Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association
of Counties

Marc Ott
Executive Director
International City/County
Management Association

David Adkins
Executive Director/CEO
The Council of State Governments

Bill McBride
Executive Director
National Governors Association

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
National Conference of
State Legislatures

Cc: The United States House of Representatives
        The United States Senate