



City of Des Moines

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April 20, 2020

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

The City of Des Moines thanks you for your commitment to providing crucial disaster relief for the health of our residents and the local economy. We are fortunate to have the support and dedication of leaders like yourself. The rapid passing of the first three phases of the COVID-19 relief package is unprecedented and has already helped considerably. We understand that negotiations on the fourth package are progressing rapidly and wanted to share concerns we are seeing here in Des Moines.

Unfortunately, many programs specifically created to provide relief for businesses, and their employees (e.g. Economic Injury Disaster Loan) are already either completely depleted or no longer accepting applications due to the limited appropriation and high demand. This is felt locally, as hundreds of businesses in our community were unable to gain access to the funds before they were depleted. The business community needs more funding as rapidly as possible. Small businesses are at particular risk if this funding is not forthcoming and we know many entrepreneurs here in Des Moines are struggling to survive. Each local business that closes for good is a personal tragedy for its owners, employees and customers and weakens our Des Moines community.

As you know, local governments are also impacted by the coronavirus. Our expenses to support the community are rapidly increasing while revenues are shrinking. As front-line service providers, it is vital that cities of all sizes also receive direct Federal assistance so that we can continue providing needed assistance to our residents. We recognize your outstanding leadership in introducing Coronavirus Community Relief Act in the Senate that would appropriate \$250 billion for local governments. Please continue working to advance the policies in this legislation to get aid to cities as quickly as possible.

The Waterland City

Senator Maria Cantwell
April 20, 2020
Page Two

These Federal investments in small business in our community and metropolitan area are an investment in the economic future of our nation.

We hope that the enthusiasm and effort around the business community endures, even as we continue the battle against this virus.

Thank you again for your continued leadership in providing needed resources for the health and vitality of Washington's residents, businesses, non-profits and governments. On behalf of the people of Des Moines we appreciate your leadership in this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Matt Pina
Mayor



Michael Matthias
City Manager