



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

Thank you for your ongoing work to help Colorado and the nation respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis it has created. On behalf of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Chamber, we ask for your support in ensuring that the Senate's next COVID supplemental includes substantial direct and flexible emergency fiscal assistance to cities and counties, as was proposed by the HEROES Act, H.R.6800. As you know, direct funding for local governments with populations under 500,000 was omitted from the CARES Act. This meant that all but one of Colorado's 271 municipalities were excluded from direct aid. While the state is now sharing a portion of its CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation with local governments, it is both insufficient and inflexible. In contrast, the local government aid proposed by the HEROES Act could be used for COVID-related expenses and most importantly to replace foregone revenues not projected on January 31, 2020 prior to the coronavirus outbreak and to respond to negative economic impacts of COVID. This funding would also be available until expended, providing flexibility over the next several years.

Boulder is in dire need of this federal support. As a result of the pandemic, the city anticipates lost revenues in 2020 of \$27 to \$43M, or between 11 to 18 percent of annual revenue, excluding utility fees. This has already resulted in having to lay off 124 employees, furlough 593 employees, hold 103 vacant positions, and requiring six furlough days for all non-emergency staff, all of which still only account for savings of \$10.5M out of the 2020 budget. Absent further federal financial support, far greater reductions will need to be made to the city's non-personnel operational and capital expenses, with negative implications for business success and community vitality. This all while the city faces rising expenses due to the need to respond to the pandemic and the related economic impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your continued leadership in helping to tackle this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

Regards,

Sam Weaver
Mayor, City of Boulder

John Tayer
President, The Boulder Chamber



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your ongoing work to help Colorado and the nation respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis it has created. On behalf of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Chamber, we ask for your support in ensuring that the Senate's next COVID supplemental includes substantial direct and flexible emergency fiscal assistance to cities and counties, as was proposed by the HEROES Act, H.R.6800. As you know, direct funding for local governments with populations under 500,000 was omitted from the CARES Act. This meant that all but one of Colorado's 271 municipalities were excluded from direct aid. While the state is now sharing a portion of its CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation with local governments, it is both insufficient and inflexible. In contrast, the local government aid proposed by the HEROES Act could be used for COVID-related expenses and most importantly to replace foregone revenues not projected on January 31, 2020 prior to the coronavirus outbreak and to respond to negative economic impacts of COVID. This funding would also be available until expended, providing flexibility over the next several years.

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