May 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As Congress considers additional federal assistance packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that you include direct relief to cities, towns and villages.

Businesses and community organizations across our country depend on the economic strength and vitality of municipalities. Not only do our nation’s cities provide an anchor for local economic development, they also provide the essential services that our businesses depend on to remain competitive, including access to clean water, public safety, reliable infrastructure and a strong workforce base. Without a lifeline to recover and restore local economic activity, cities will be forced to make cuts to essential services that will have a ripple effect across the public and private sectors.

For organizations such as ours, it is because of our strong community partnership that we can thrive. The strong leadership of our local elected officials, and the partnership they have provided to local businesses is critical to our success. If cities fail to thrive, we all fail to thrive.

We know that you understand the importance of this relationship in cities, towns and villages across our country and we hope that we can rely on your leadership to support legislation that includes:

• $500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments.
• Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government, with no exclusions based on population.
• Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments.
• Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
Sperling Center for Research and Innovation
Stodola & Associates Law Firm, Inc.
Susanne Moser Research & Consulting
Sustainable Strategies DC
The American Society of Adaptation Professionals
The Financial Services Innovation Coalition/ American Innovation and Opportunity Fund
The Governance Project
The International Town & Gown Association
The League of American Bicyclists
The National Urban Indian Family Coalition
The Trust for Public Land
Tyler Technologies
U.S. Green Building Council
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
United Way of Forsyth County
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Urban Design & Preservation Division, American Planning Association
Urban Libraries Council
Urban Sustainability Directors Network
US Water Alliance
Waste Management
Water Environment Federation
WaterNow Alliance
Welcoming America
Winston Salem Black Chamber of Commerce
Winston-Salem Urban League
YMCA of the USA
YWCA USA