May X, 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. 20515

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. 20515

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 ensure that we 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 for 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,

[and list of organizations names]