**Coalition Member LTE Template – July 2020**

Word count: **280**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, cities, towns and villages across America have incurred skyrocketing expenses to protect their residents, all while facing sharp declines in tax revenues due to reduced business activity.

This troubling combination will spell disaster for local governments across the nation if Congress does not act now to provide direct federal aid to municipalities in the forthcoming coronavirus relief package to ensure we can lift up our local economies to support our national economic recovery.

America’s cities are [facing a more than $360 billion revenue shortfall over the next three years](https://citiesspeak.org/2020/05/14/cities-anticipate-360-billion-revenue-shortfall/),

and [74% of municipalities in the U.S. have already started making unavoidable cuts and adjustments](https://citiesspeak.org/2020/06/23/cities-are-making-unavoidable-cuts-in-response-to-covid-19-fiscal-pressures/) in response to projected revenue shortfalls in 2020 and beyond.

Businesses and community organizations across the country depend on the vitality of our municipalities, which provide an anchor for local economic development and the critical services businesses depend on to remain competitive. Without a lifeline from Congress, cities like [city name] and others across the country will be forced to cut essential services and delay or cancel job-creating infrastructure projects, further stalling our communities’ efforts to safely reopen and restore a strong economy after a historic downturn.

At a time when nearly half the states in our country are rolling back or pausing reopening efforts due to alarming spikes in new coronavirus cases and hospitalizations, we need action by Congress now more than ever to avoid more layoffs, canceled projects, and cuts to essential services.

[Organization] urges our congressional delegation to work in a bipartisan fashion to deliver the support that our cities, towns and villages across America need to safely reopen and get our economy back on track.