

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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The Honorable Barbara Lee (CA-13)
2470 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Email: jain.thapa@mail.house.gov

August 4, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Lee,

On behalf of the City of Albany, I urge you to support \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes to sustain core services for our residents and to support public health and economic recovery in our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted municipal budgets across the country in ways that local governments could not have foreseen. Serving on the front lines of fighting this pandemic, Albany has stepped up by enacting emergency orders, protecting residents, supporting vulnerable populations, and helping our crucial small businesses stay afloat. These actions have saved lives, but they have come at a cost. This unprecedented and multifaceted COVID-19 response, including the shutdown of our local economy, leaves us with a projected 1.7 million dollar budget deficit. This shortfall continues to grow as modified stay-at-home orders have extended into the summer months. At the same time, we have incurred significant unplanned expenditures.

Without significant new federal resources to offset expenses and address revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19, cities, who are required to balance their budgets every year, have no choice but to reduce or eliminate critical public services that our residents rely upon and layoff city employees. Fewer first responders to answer emergency calls, reduced frequency of garbage pickups, delayed repairs to streets and sidewalks, delayed inspections and permitting, and limited hours for parks and senior centers are just a few of the core services under threat.

Cities need Congress to deliver this assistance with no minimum population threshold determining eligibility for funding to all of our communities now. We cannot afford to wait. The funding provided through the CARES Act was not enough to ensure that all local governments have the resources to stabilize local budgets and continue delivering local services, fighting this pandemic and supporting local recovery.

Cities are the economic engines of our state and the backbone of this nation. Recovery from this unprecedented crisis will only be realized at the local level with strong support from the federal government. We implore you to provide this assistance to our cities, so that we can continue to be your strong partner in California.

Sincerely,



Nick Pilch
Albany Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
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The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore, State of California
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