

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

We write to request information on how the State of Michigan has allocated federal resources through the Coronavirus Relief Fund established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). As the federal government continues to work with Michigan on efforts to address the impact of the coronavirus, we are interested to know how and where these funds have been deployed throughout the State.

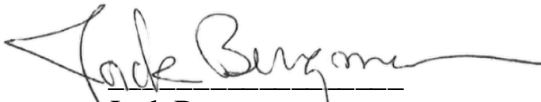
A recent study conducted by the National League of Cities found that thirty -two states, including Michigan, are withholding Coronavirus Relief Fund resources from most local governments. The U.S. Treasury has been explicit in its guidance, stating such funds may be transferred to localities. Furthermore, it was never Congress’ intent that these taxpayer dollars be kept from our local governments, many of which not only have urgent needs but also have the ability to quickly put these resources to work in rural and remote communities. Aside from the five Michigan localities that were eligible for direct funding, it is our understanding that Michigan has access to \$3.08 billion in Coronavirus Relief Fund resources. The full allocation to the State, including the five large localities totals \$3.8 billion. With these considerations in mind, we ask that you provide an outline of your plan to use the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

In many parts of the State, our county and municipal governments have taken on a significant role in confronting the spread of the coronavirus. This has led to increased and unplanned costs for governments already operating on thin margins, and are now seeing a substantial decrease in revenue. Additional transfers of Coronavirus Relief Funds by the State to our local governments could be used to cover unforeseen expenses, like hazard pay for local law officers. While we are thankful Michigan has provided state police with hazard pay; county sheriffs, correctional officers in county jails, and other local law enforcement have not been afforded this same assistance from the State. We request that you provide an explanation for why the State has not facilitated hazard pay, such as through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, for these police and their families.

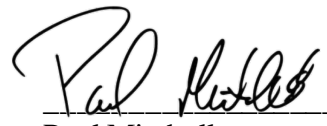
Additionally, it is important that Coronavirus Relief Fund resources are appropriately distributed across the State, because it is the entirety of Michigan – from Copper Harbor to Detroit – that has been impacted by the pandemic. We appreciate any information you can provide about which areas of Michigan received or will receive federal support via the State.

Having spoken with local leaders in our districts, it is clear our counties and municipalities have significant unmet needs in their efforts to help the State stop the spread of the coronavirus. We ask that you allow local governments this opportunity, and we stand ready to help your administration identify areas of need. Thank you for your response and attention to this important matter.

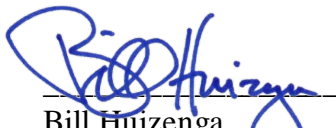
Sincerely,



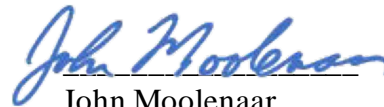
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



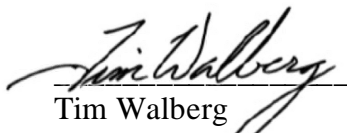
Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress