



April 16, 2020

Washington State Congressional Delegation

Dear Members of Congress,

We would like to start by thanking the Washington state congressional delegation for your work on behalf of Washington employers during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The current \$2.2 trillion investment was essential to ensure Washingtonians and the businesses they work for have the resources necessary to battle the epidemic. It is clear this is not only an unprecedented public health emergency but also an economic crisis unlike any we have previously experienced.

The first three stimulus packages were a good start to addressing the issues facing Washingtonians. Our concern is that all small companies have access to assistance before funding runs out therefore, we encourage you quickly approve the next round of funding for the Paycheck Protection Program. Additionally, we believe it's critical to replenish the funds for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Strengthening policies and providing further assistance so that employers of all sizes are supported, and their employees have the resources they need to support their families is paramount.

It's far too early to calculate the final toll, but it's not too early to begin marshaling the resources that will surely be required to help Washington's most vulnerable businesses survive this challenging and uncertain period. This is an extraordinary moment in our nation's history, and it will require an extraordinary response.

On behalf of the nearly 7,000 members of the Association of Washington Business, and the thousands of additional businesses across Washington state represented by the undersigned organizations, we write today to ask for your help and for your leadership in Congress to do the following things to support Washington businesses:

Small Business Administration

- Provide clarity in current appropriations to help stabilize businesses and workers right now including technical corrections such as:
 - Extended timeline for applications and for restoring staffing and salary levels – since COVID-19 is impacting different areas at different times, and our state's stay-at-home order makes it almost impossible for affected small businesses to bring back staff in time to qualify for loan forgiveness
 - Relaxing the affiliate rules for small business
 - Clarify funding is available for not for profits such as 501 (c)6 and 501 (c)4 entities
 - Relax requirements under "know your customer" provision to increase banking capacity
 - Flexibility in funding for Paine Field. The CARES Act calculates relief funds based on 2018 enplanements. Paine Field did not begin commercial service until 2019 disqualifying it from funding.

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- Clarity on the inclusion of workers' comp premiums in the definition of payroll costs
- Ensure there are sufficient funds to provide clarity, consistency, and stability for all businesses now and into the near future
- Earmark funding for companies with 50 or fewer employees
- Provide funding for tooling costs for those manufacturers who are pivoting their production to Personal Protection Equipment

Essential Services Support

- Support for childcare providers
- Continued support for the health care industry as they continue to care for those afflicted and battle the spread of the virus

Health Care

- Targeted support for health care providers as small business
- Authorize health care credential reciprocity

USDA

- Relief for growers and producers by purchasing excess crops

USDOL

- Create new cost-sharing mechanism for employers who are covering new benefits for employees (like new paid leave or paid sick leave) or for employers who are maintaining existing benefits during closures
- Additional funding for National Dislocated Worker Grants

General Business Support

- Commercial rent & mortgage deferrals & forgiveness with comparable deferrals & forgiveness for their landlords and lenders – including expanding to mortgages that are not federally issued/insured
- Temporarily allow a five-year carryback for Net Operating Loss (NOL) deductions - A business incurs a net operating loss (NOL) when its taxable income is negative. The year in which the NOL is realized is referred to as a "loss year." Businesses have no tax liability in a loss year. The 2017 tax bill eliminated the ability for taxpayers to carry back an NOL, while allowing an NOL to be carried forward indefinitely

Economic Recovery

- Funding for Infrastructure projects
- Funding for worker retraining programs
- Funding for collaboration between the health care industry and the education and workforce training systems to recruit the next generation of health care workers to ensure the country has the necessary workforce to address the needs of its citizens daily and in a crisis

We look forward to working with you on this wide-ranging set of policy proposals to mitigate the effects of the outbreak. Until then, Washington's employer community will continue to work side-by-side with

elected leaders and public health officials to quell the coronavirus and protect the health and welfare of workers, their families, and communities throughout Washington.

Sincerely,

Congressional District #1

Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce
Woodinville Chamber and Visitor Center
Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #2

Anacortes Chamber of Commerce
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Marysville Tulalip Chamber of
Commerce
Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #3

Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #4

Grand Coulee Dam Chamber
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #5

Greater Spokane Incorporated
Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce
Pullman Chamber and Visitor Center

Congressional District #6

Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce
Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce
Silverdale Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #7

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
South Lake Union Chamber of Commerce
West Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #8

Covington Chamber of Commerce
Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce
Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber of
Commerce

Congressional District #9

Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce
Kent Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce

Congressional District #10

Association of Washington Business
Fife Milton Edgewood Chamber
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce
Thurston County Chamber of Commerce