

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 23, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer,

As members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation, we thank you for your leadership and efforts in securing two bipartisan agreements thus far to help mitigate the impact of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As you consider additional measures to address COVID-19, we urge you to prioritize supplemental funding for the Community Disaster Loan (CDL) program and support modifications to the cap and repayments terms of loans issued through the program.

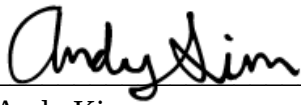
The CDL program provides critical operational funding to local governments that have significant tax and other major revenue losses after major disasters like Superstorm Sandy and the COVID-19 outbreak. These loans provide lifelines for municipalities to help prevent disruptions to essential services that are critical to maintain the health and welfare of our communities. Pursuant to Sec. 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, FEMA is authorized to issue up to \$5 million with an initial five-year term, with a maximum repayment period of ten years per loan. Adequate funding for this program is essential to the local municipalities that are in immediate need of federal assistance. While we believe ensuring states and communities have access to robust and flexible spending grants should be the top priority in the next emergency stimulus package for COVID-19 that Congress considers, we simultaneously urge the prioritization and inclusion of adequate funding and improvements to the CDL program.

In 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which made temporary revisions during that calendar year to the traditional CDL program. We ask you to consider making similar necessary adjustments to CDLs issued to municipalities due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, we ask that the cap for CDLs be raised from \$5 million to \$10 million and

ask that the repayment terms of all loans issued through the program be extended from a maximum of ten to fifteen years. We believe these adjustments would provide much needed flexibility for loan recipients of the program for this truly unprecedented event that will have long-lasting economic impacts to all State economies.

Thank you for your consideration of this time sensitive request. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



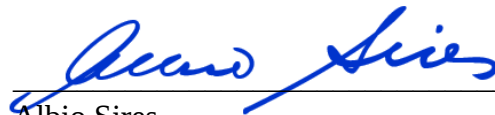
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



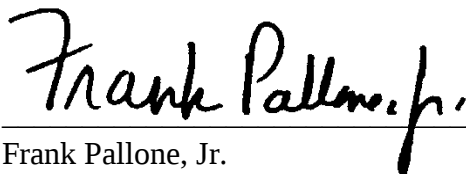
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



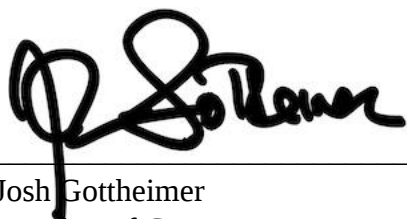
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

/s/

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress