



August 11, 2020

Congressman John Curtis
125 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Curtis,

On behalf of every city and town in Utah, we thank you and your colleagues in Utah’s congressional delegation for enacting the CARES Act and for authorizing the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Specifically, we applaud you for sponsoring legislation which would provide a limitation for the recoupment of Coronavirus Relief Fund by governments other than the federal government.

We’ve learned valuable lessons about the implementation of the CARES Act in recent months, especially the importance of explicit Congressional direction on how to allocate and utilize the funds. As a former mayor and ULCT President, we know that you understand the importance of certainty, efficiency, and accountability for cities when we receive federal funds. Cities and towns need the certainty of knowing how we can spend federal funds and the chain of command for spending the funds so that we can rapidly put the money to work for our collective constituents. We as cities want the process to be efficient—in this case, federal money to cities without other levels of government enacting additional requirements or trying to “recover” those federal dollars—so that we can invest the money into the services that our residents expect. Likewise, we as cities are committed to prudently spending the federal dollars according to the Treasury Department guidance and Frequently Asked Questions.

For example, Cedar Hills Mayor Jenney Rees has helped coordinated discussions between cities and Utah County on the allocation of CARES Act dollars there. Mayor Rees said, *“clarifying the role of each level of government is critical in maximizing the use of CARES Act and other federal monies in our communities. Even within the same county, my city is unique compared to my neighbors and we are utilizing the Coronavirus Relief Fund in a manner that makes the most sense for us and is consistent with the Treasury Department guidance. Congressman Curtis’ language would give me as the mayor of Cedar Hills certainty on the process for spending the federal money so I can make the best decision for my community without worrying about the potential for inter-governmental politics.”*

On behalf of our membership, thank you for your proposed amendment and for your ongoing partnership with cities and towns as we work together to overcome COVID-19 and bolster our economy. Feel free to contact us anytime at cdiehl@ulct.org or mikem@spanishfork.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Mendenhall
ULCT President, Spanish Fork Council Member

Cameron Diehl
ULCT Executive Director

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