

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
703 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes
Norton
2136 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Kaine
231 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
110 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Beyer
1119 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
2205 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
2202 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elaine Luria
534 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
2334 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
1217 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
1201 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch
Ruppersberger
2206 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
2238 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable A. Donald
McEachin
314 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes
2370 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denver Riggleman
1022 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Brown
1323 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Cline
1009 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Trone
1213 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
1239 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
412 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the Congressional Delegation for Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia:

As the year 2020 wraps up, our state and local governments continue to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) to our region's employers, their employees, and their families, and we applaud your shared leadership and commitment to deliver much-needed assistance, especially to those most vulnerable. As a coalition of Capital Region business organizations, we are aligned and support your efforts in the passage of an FY2021 omnibus spending package and additional economic relief in this package before the 116th Congress concludes. We support the inclusion of funding for healthcare providers and healthcare systems to combat the virus and increased testing capacity, increased support for transit agencies, and additional aid for state and local governments who have diverted their

already strained resources to combatting the virus, including equal support for the District of Columbia to protect its residents, federal employees, and economy.

As we work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to coordinate successful vaccination distribution, we stand together with you in putting the health and safety of our region first. For our economy to reopen safely and efficiently, we need clear guidance supported by data and science from public health and emergency response experts, informed by an increase in testing capacity, contact tracing, and enhanced supply of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Our region spans three jurisdictions, with a significant portion of our workforce — especially those considered essential workers— relying on public transportation. Increased support for transit agencies is critical to ensure that our regional economy recovers from the pandemic and that workers can safely and reliably have access to jobs. We urge the Delegation to advocate for additional funding for our transit agencies -- such as the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Washington Area Metropolitan Authority, Montgomery County Ride On, Prince George's County The Bus, Fairfax County Connector, and the Greater Richmond Transit Company -- and to ensure MTA receives an equitable funding allocation compared to its large metro transit partners throughout the U.S.

Also critical to our success is a fully functioning public sector partner at the federal, state, and local levels to achieve a safe reopening of our region's businesses. Early estimates show the public sector budgetary impact from COVID-19 will exceed the Great Recession. The decline of the public sector workforce will limit the public sector's ability to partner with the private sector to safely and gradually reopen our operations, and will suffocate our region's ability to provide essential services such as public health, education, public safety, transportation, and other vital services.

The continued rise of COVID-19 positive patients combined with a lack of funding to address the complex and systemic needs across the country is urgent. Please support additional aid for state and local governments to provide critical services and employment in FY2021. This funding should remain flexible and support important services such as public health, transportation (e.g., transit and Amtrak), K-12 and higher education, housing, job retraining, and upskilling. We also urge you to ensure that the District of Columbia receives funding that is equal to aid provided to states, because District residents and businesses have been equally impacted and deserve equal treatment.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to our region's needs during this very difficult time, and please do not hesitate to reach out for further support.

Sincerely,

Joe Haggerty, President & CEO
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Michele L. Whelley, President & CEO
Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

Kate Bates, President & CEO
Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Anthony A. Williams, CEO & Executive Director
Federal City Council

Gina Stewart, Executive Director
BWI Business Partnership

Donald C. Fry, President & CEO
Greater Baltimore Committee

Brian Anderson, President & CEO
ChamberRVA

Ginanne Mayer Italiano, President & CEO
Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

Angela Franco, Interim President & CEO
DC Chamber of Commerce

Jane Redicker, President & CEO
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce

Jack McDougle, President & CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade

JB Holston, President & CEO
Greater Washington Partnership

Leonardo McClarty, CCE, President/CEO
Howard County Chamber

Tony Howard, President & CEO
Loudon County Chamber of Commerce

Georgette Godwin, President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Julie Coons, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

David C. Harrington, President & CEO
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce

Marji Graf, President & CEO
Rockville Chamber of Commerce

Caitlin Rogger, Interim Executive Director
DC Sustainable Transportation