



www.njbia.org/recovery

June 26, 2020

Senator Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Frank Pallone
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Cory Booker
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Tom Malinowski
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Donald Norcross
2437 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Albio Sires
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jeff Van Drew
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Bill Pascrell
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Andy Kim
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Donald Payne
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Christopher Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Josh Gottheimer
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
2442 Rayburn Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Funding

Dear New Jersey Congressional Delegation Members,

As the leaders of the Garden State's major business associations, we write again to thank you for your ongoing advocacy for the businesses and residents of New Jersey that require additional resources during this COVID-19 crisis. The federal funding you have already provided to New Jersey has been helpful, but we write to you requesting additional funding that New Jersey needs for its State Budget to replace lost revenue.

As we begin to reopen, state and local governments across the nation are facing unprecedented budget shortfalls. In New Jersey, the state is expected to face a shortfall of approximately \$10 billion through the end of the FY2020 budget and all of the FY2021 budget. Sacrifices have and will continue to be made by individuals, businesses, and the government to bring the state out of the economic crisis resulting from COVID-19. The decisions made in the coming months will determine the long-term trajectory of New Jersey's economy and business climate.

While the business community strongly encourages our state government to tighten its spending, budget shortfalls may not be eliminated by spending cuts alone. Indeed, Governor Murphy has already announced intentions to borrow and we are extremely concerned in one of the highest taxed states in our nation that tax increase proposals on businesses to generate revenue may be considered. The business community cannot shoulder the burden of a multi-billion-dollar budget gap, especially not as it leads the state's economic recovery that will generate the lost tax revenue we so desperately need.

Given the necessity to avoid excessive borrowing and tax increases, it is essential that the federal government provide funding to help states close budget shortfalls. This issue is not unique to New Jersey, as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce nationally and business communities in states such as California are beginning to push for enhanced federal support for state and local governments.

Several members of this coalition have already announced support for the bipartisan State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act, sponsored by our own Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ). It is also co-sponsored by New Jersey's Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ). The SMART Act would allocate \$500 billion in federal funding to state and local governments similar to the bipartisan request from the National Governor's Association. Funding would be dependent on a state's population size and the severity of its COVID-19 outbreak and revenue shortfall. In New Jersey, the bill could prevent excessive borrowing, lower the state's need to increase taxes on businesses as they lead the Garden State out of the current economic downturn, and avoid cuts to some services on which our businesses rely. To continue all of the great work you have been doing on behalf of New Jersey's taxpayers, we urge you to take action on the SMART Act or similar legislation soon.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of New Jersey residents during this unprecedented health crisis. If you have questions, please contact Chrissy Buteas, NJBIA Chief Government Affairs Officer, at cbuteas@njbja.org or 908-447-3466.

Sincerely,

African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc.

American Camp Association NY/NJ
New Jersey Camps Government Affairs Project
American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey
American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey
Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce
BioNJ
Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia
Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
Chemistry Council of NJ
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
CrossState Credit Union Association
Downtown New Jersey
Early Childhood Education Advocates
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce
Employers Association of NJ
Fuel Merchants Associates of NJ
Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc
Global Business Alliance
Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce
Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Health Care Association of NJ
Healthcare Institute of NJ
Hoboken Chamber of Commerce
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey
Home Health Services Association of New Jersey
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce
Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce
Insurance Council of New Jersey
Jersey Shore Partnership
Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Meadowlands Chamber
Monmouth Ocean Development Council
Morris County Chamber of Commerce
NAIOP-NJ
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
Newark Regional Business Partnership

New Jersey Apartment Association
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Bankers Association
New Jersey Builders Association
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Civil Justice Institute
New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers
New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association
New Jersey Council of County Colleges
New Jersey Dental Association
New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association
New Jersey Hotel and Lodging Industry Association
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors Association
New Jersey LGBT Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc.
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Jersey Pharmacists Association
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society
New Jersey Realtors
New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
New Jersey Salon and Spa Coalition
New Jersey Self Insurers Association
New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants
New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association
New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Tourism & Industry Association
New Jersey Utilities Association
New Jersey Warehousemen & Movers Association
New Jersey YMCA State Alliance
New York Shipping Association, Inc.
North Jersey Jewish Business Alliance
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce
Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey (PIANJ)
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Salem County Chamber of Commerce

Somerset County Business Partnership
Southern NJ Development Council
Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce
TechUnited: NJ
The United Boatmen of N.J.
Union Township Chamber of Commerce