

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

We write to urge your immediate attention and swift action to ensure small farmers and other agricultural enterprises can access economic injury loans and emergency grants.

We were shocked and disappointed that, contrary to Congressional intent, the Small Business Administration singled out farmers and agricultural businesses as ineligible for the economic injury disaster loan and emergency grant program. On April 2, 2020, Reps. Delgado, Brindisi and Harder led 86 Members of Congress in sending a letter urging the SBA to follow congressional intent and include small farmers in the EIDL program as Congress intended under the CARES Act.

When SBA failed to make this change, Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act and included an important provision that explicitly makes small farms and other agriculture operations eligible for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Grants.

Despite this, we now learn from the SBA that it will not be taking new loan applications from farmers due to a long list of pending applications from other small businesses. In other words, our farmers are currently eligible for EIDL in theory only, which does not address the practical realities of hardship so many of our local producers are facing day in and day out. We must ensure our farmers left out of the first round of funding have a real chance of accessing this critical support in the second round. This decision by the SBA is once again not consistent with Congress' intent to include small farms in this program.

We ask you to share a detailed plan of how you will address these concerns and how SBA plans to process new EIDL applications. We also ask for detailed information on the current number and amount of EIDL applications pending and how much of the newly provided EIDL funding is estimated be available after the SBA has processed all existing loan applications.

Thank you, Administrator Carranza, for your attention to this critical matter, and for SBA's work to address the economic impacts of this pandemic. SBA's swift action on this issue will help alleviate the concerns of our nation's family farms, which are vital to our country and our communities.

Sincerely,



ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



JOSH HARDER
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress



ELISE STEFANIK
Member of Congress



PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



TOM REED
Member of Congress



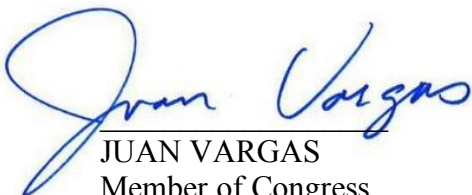
RO KHANNA
Member of Congress



DENVER RIGGLEMAN
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress



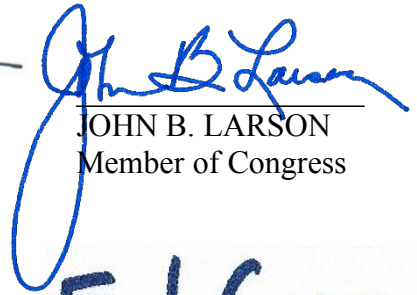
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress



J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



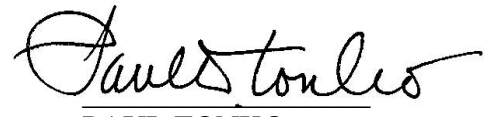
ED CASE
Member of Congress



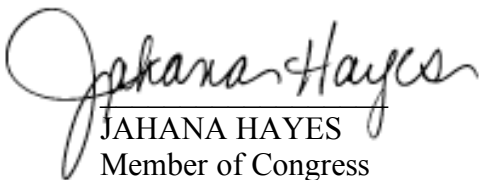
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



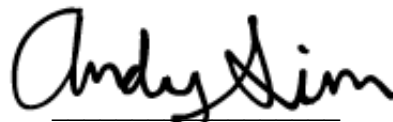
GREG STANTON
Member of Congress



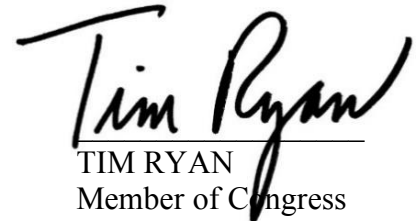
PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



ANDY KIM
Member of Congress



TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
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Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
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XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
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ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
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Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
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STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



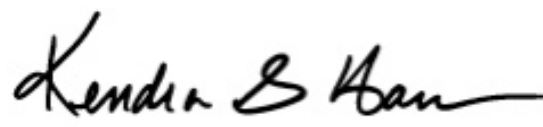
AL LAWSON
Member of Congress



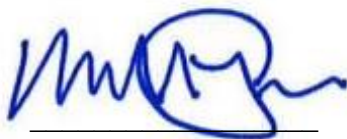
GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress



DAN KILDEE
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE JR.
Member of Congress



ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress



CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress



STEVEN HORSFORD
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



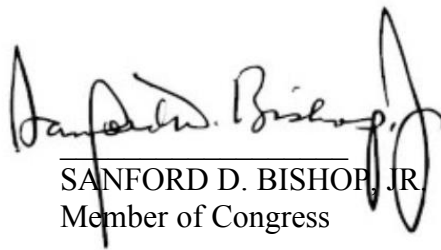
JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



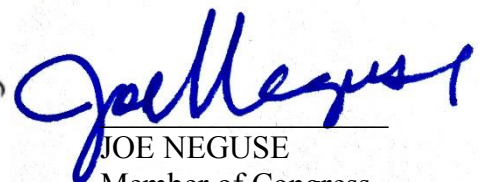
AMI BERA
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress



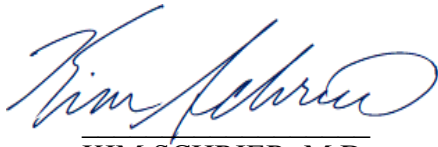
SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress



KIM SCHRIER, M.D.
Member of Congress



MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress



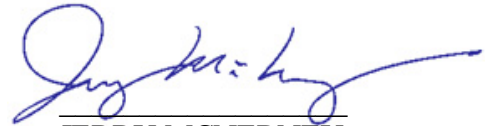
BEN RAY LUJAN
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



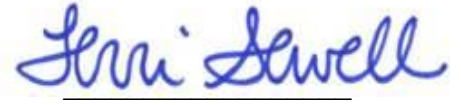
JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



TERRI SEWELL
Member of Congress