



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

Thursday, May 21, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

Thank you to you, and the entire Department of the Treasury, for your work and accessibility while the federal government has been responding to COVID-19 and the trying economic times it has created.

As part of the CARES Act signed by President Trump on March 27, Congress appropriated a total of \$150 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund so that Treasury could send direct payments to states, as well as larger counties and cities, for the purpose of navigating previously unexpected budget obligations related to addressing the COVID-19 outbreak and related crisis. Of this \$150 billion total, Pennsylvania was allocated roughly \$4.9 billion.

The CARES Act provided specific language for how these federal funds were to be used:

- (d) Use of funds. — A State, Tribal government, and unit of local government shall use the funds provided under a payment made under this section to cover only those costs of the State, Tribal government, or unit of local government that—
 - (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
 - (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government; and
 - (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf recently referenced withholding federal CARES funding as part of a threat aimed at counties that do not follow his coronavirus-related closure orders. Such a threat is not in accordance with the legislative intent of the CARES Act. Funds were appropriated by Congress for the purpose of supporting states, counties, and communities as they work to address the coronavirus crisis. I ask that Treasury issue guidance that clearly and indisputably clarifies that

these funds are to be used for the needs of our communities and not for leverage purposes by governors.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this in greater detail with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Meuser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and the last name "Meuser" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel P. Meuser
Member of Congress