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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

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March 19, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate
Office of the Minority Leader
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Minority Leader
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you continue to negotiate the details of an economic stimulus package to help struggling businesses and individuals during the current health crisis, we urge to you make loans under the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) available at 0% for small businesses experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. This would provide vital economic support for our small business owners and employees during this time of crisis.

Passing the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act* was a critical first step for small businesses suffering during the COVID-19 outbreak, by making around \$7 billion available for 3.75% interest loans of up to \$2 million each. However, this may not be enough for small businesses, many of which have taken drastic steps to combat the transmission of the virus, including completely shutting their doors.

In order to do everything we can to lessen this burden for small businesses, we believe Congress should follow the example of Florida's successful Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, which offers interest-free loans for up to one year for small businesses experiencing economic hardship. This would provide much-needed relief to small businesses to cover expenses, such as paid family and medical leave, that may be necessary during this time.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to make EIDL loans in the upcoming stimulus package available at 0% interest for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



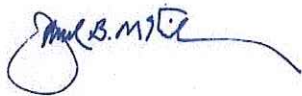
John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



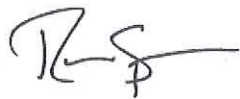
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Darren Soto
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Troy Balderson
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Frederica Wilson
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