



April 16, 2020

The Honorable Bill Cassidy

703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ralph Abraham

417 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Clay Higgins

424 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cedric Richmond

240 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy

B11 Russel Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Garret Graves

204 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson

418 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise

2338 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Members of the Louisiana Delegation:

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a grave health impact on the citizens of our State. The pandemic has also resulted in a crushing impact to our economy. In Jefferson Parish and all across the United States, small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. Stay-at-home orders have forced many of our small business owners to make very difficult decisions affecting their livelihoods and those of their employees. Your expeditious action in recently passing the bipartisan CARES Act is very much appreciated.

The Paycheck Protection Program, within the CARES Act, promised to provide a lifeline to businesses and assist them in retaining employees. By all accounts, the program has been a success with the entire program being deployed in a matter of days. Many of our Jefferson Parish-based companies were able to maintain operations and rehire employees as a result. Seeing how quickly the Paycheck Protection Program funds were accessed is a clear indication of how much the funds were needed by companies.

The need is still very much there. Despite the swift action of many of our community banks around the region, many of our businesses have not yet obtained funding via the Paycheck Protection Program. Without additional funding, their options for staying afloat during this crisis diminish greatly, which in turn makes it all the more difficult for the Jefferson Parish and regional economy to restart in the aftermath of this disaster. On behalf of the JEDCO Board of Commissioners, I respectfully ask the members of our Louisiana delegation to urgently consider providing additional funding for this crucial program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Bologna".

Jerry Bologna,
JEDCO President & CEO

CC: JEDCO Board of Commissioners