November 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker  
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives (CA)  
United States House of Representatives (CA)
(Sent Via Email)  
(Sent Via Email)

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

**RE: Support for the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act**

On behalf of the nation’s state and local governments, we strongly endorse the bipartisan *State, Local Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* (S. 3011) – co-sponsored by Senators Alex Padilla (CA) and John Cornyn (TX) – that would provide additional flexibility under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This bill was approved by unanimous consent in the Senate on October 19, and we strongly urge House passage so that the bill can be sent to President Biden for his signature.

Since the enactment of ARPA, we have been working collaboratively with our respective memberships, the White House and the U.S. Department of the Treasury to implement the $350 billion provided under the law. We believe that this new legislation would both streamline and strengthen this historic program in three key ways.

First, it would allow state and local governments to allocate up to $10 million of ARPA funds for the provision of government services without using complicated budgetary analysis to calculate lost revenue, while at the same time retaining the original provision of the law that would allow for a higher amount to be used if justified under Treasury’s revenue loss calculator.

Second, it would allow the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of the total ARPA allocation provided to a state or local government to be used under a new, separate provision that further allows infrastructure-related activities authorized under federal surface transportation laws or Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

And third, it would allow the CSLFRF funding to be used to provide, “emergency relief from natural disasters or the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs.”

America’s state and local governments have been engaged in our nation’s response to COVID-19 since the earliest days, and providing these governments with flexible, essential financial resources is the surest way to see that our nation’s preparedness and responsivity continues. As intergovernmental partners, we respectfully ask you to pass S. 3011, which will help achieve our shared goals of mitigating, responding and recovering from this unprecedented national pandemic.
Thank you for your continued support for America’s cities, counties and states. We hope that this bipartisan legislation can be acted upon quickly as we continue to deploy the critical resources provided under ARPA to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and help foster a transformational economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The United States Conference of Mayors

Clarence Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
The National League of Cities

Matthew D. Chase  
CEO/Executive Director  
The National Association of Counties

Marc Ott  
Executive Director  
The International City/County Management Association

David Adkins  
Executive Director/CEO  
The Council of State Governments

Bill McBride  
Executive Director  
The National Governors Association

Tim Storey  
Executive Director  
The National Conference of State Legislatures

Cc: The United States House of Representatives