



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman Financial Service Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member Financial Service Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chairman Small Business Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Ranking Member Small Business Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Waters, Ranking Member McHenry, Chairwoman Velazquez and Ranking Member Chabot:

New York State has been the epicenter for the COVID-19 outbreak in our country, and has sadly seen the greatest loss of life. My district specifically has seen immense hardship as it was the first hotspot in the nation. We are a strong community but need further federal assistance. With that backdrop, I write to draw your attention to a critical but often overlooked part of our housing economy – housing cooperatives.

There are many co-ops in my district that tens of thousands of families call home. While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security Act (CARES) Act has provided critical assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program to small businesses in my district, housing cooperatives have not received similar federal assistance. They deserve to be treated fairly and equitably just like everyone else. The cooperatives themselves – which have employees and operating expenses just like any small business – should be eligible for the same relief made available to other small businesses. That includes the Paycheck Protection Program and other loans administered by the Small Business Administration. It is paramount that we take a comprehensive approach to helping all Americans.

I want to thank you for the tremendous work in passing various critical funding packages to combat this public health emergency. I look forward to working with you on the next comprehensive funding package to stop this virus and help our constituents to set our nation on a strong recovery.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress