

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
403 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

We write to thank you for your work in implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and for supporting America's small businesses as they work to maintain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We ask that as you work to implement the Paycheck Protection Program, you ensure that rural electric cooperatives, as private corporate business concerns operating on a cooperative basis, will be considered eligible recipients under the program. Electric cooperatives are privately-owned businesses, formed by and for the benefit of the communities that they serve, primarily in rural America.

The CARES Act, and the Paycheck Protection Program in particular, was designed to provide support to small businesses across the country, many of which face significant challenges retaining employees, maintaining payroll, and covering daily expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is generally available to "any business concern" that meets SBA size standards (as well as other eligible entities). Nearly all electric cooperatives are classified as "small" businesses under SBA's size standards, with the average distribution cooperative employing under 50 people. As these electric co-ops face the same challenges as many other small businesses, we believe the Small Business Administration should ensure they are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program.

As you develop the guidance, regulations, and application forms for implementing the Paycheck Protection Program and other provisions of the CARES Act, we request you ensure America's electric cooperatives are deemed as qualifying business concerns and are able to fully participate and benefit as small businesses serving their local communities.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to continuing to work with you to implement the CARES Act in a timely manner. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Hoeven
John Hoeven
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Joni Ernst
Joni Ernst
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis
Thom Tillis
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Roy Blunt
Roy Blunt
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Kevin Cramer
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Ted Cruz
Ted Cruz
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Roger F. Wicker
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ John Boozman
John Boozman
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Steve Daines
Steve Daines
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Chuck Grassley
Charles Grassley
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Jerry Moran
Jerry Moran
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ James M. Inhofe
James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ John Cornyn
John Cornyn
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
Cory Gardner
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin III
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/s/ Lindsey O. Graham
Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa Murkowski
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/ Cindy Hyde-Smith
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester
Jon Tester
United States Senator

/s/ James Lankford
James Lankford
United States Senator

/s/ Dan Sullivan
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

/s/ John Barrasso, M.D.
John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Scott
Tim Scott
United States Senator

/s/ Josh Hawley
Josh Hawley
United States Senator

/s/ Mike Crapo
Mike Crapo
United States Senator

/s/ Michael B. Enzi
Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

/s/ Martha McSally
Martha McSally
United States Senator

/s/ Marsha Blackburn
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator