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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

March 17, 2020

Governor Ralph Northam
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Governor Northam:

I am writing to urge you to request the Small Business Administration to issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Your leadership throughout this crisis is an example for other states, and it is critical to do all we can to protect the economy of Virginia while prioritizing the health and safety of all Virginians.

On March 6, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. This bill contained important emergency funding to research vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and enacted emergency economic measures. The establishment of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is crucial for small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state to absorb losses throughout the duration of this pandemic. The program must be activated by a request from the state's Governor. As the morbidity and mortality rates continue to rise in Coastal Virginia, it would be prudent to make this request immediately.

As you lead Virginia through these uncertain times, I urge you to immediately ask the SBA to issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration to help ease the minds of small business owner and non-profit entities. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress