

ELAINE LURIA
2ND DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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

412 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4215

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AND MARITIME SECURITY

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
US Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Secretary Yellen,

I am writing to urge an expedited release of the American Rescue Plan Act guidance for localities. After convening a roundtable with local leaders in Hampton Roads, I was troubled to learn that each Mayor and County Board Supervisor were unable to make critical decisions about their city or county's financial future until they are provided guidance.

Cities and counties are beginning the difficult work of balancing their budgets in a year where their revenues were severely limited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though local leaders are grateful to receive federal assistance, many are unsure how they will be able to use funds granted through the American Rescue Plan, which severely hinders their ability to plan. Hampton Roads community leaders need answers to help them address their funding for services like police and fire departments, how to allocate resource to promote their vital hospitality and tourism industries, and how to ensure adequate resources for COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Having financial certainty regarding eligible expenses under the American Rescue Plan will enable them to allocate their resources effectively.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and your work to ensure states and localities have the support they need to thrive this next fiscal year. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress