

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As you consider future legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include changes to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to allow publicly-owned venues, including arenas, amphitheaters, local convention centers, and performing arts centers to qualify for loans under this program.

Venues provide economic activity in both large cities and small towns across America. They attract millions of patrons to a wide range of activities, including sporting events, concerts, county fairs, and conferences. Additionally, venues are an economic force multiplier, filling their communities' restaurants, hotels, and retail establishments with patrons before and after events.

When implementing the PPP program, SBA excluded publicly-owned venues as eligible entities since they are government-owned. This unfortunately excluded publicly-owned venues from the same program that privately-owned venues are eligible for. Often, publicly-owned venues are established by a political subdivision of a state or local government, but they fund their operations through event revenue like privately-owned venues. Moreover, they typically receive little to no funding from government sources because they are not included in state or local government budgets.

We respectfully request that you include changes to allow this limited category of government-owned entities to be eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program in future COVID-19-related legislation.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
U.S. Senate



John Cornyn
U.S. Senate



Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senate



Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate



Joni K. Ernst
U.S. Senate



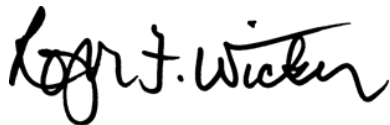
Thom Tillis
U.S. Senate

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senate



Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senate



Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senate

/s/ Jack Reed

Jack Reed
U.S. Senate



Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate



James Lankford
U.S. Senate



Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate



Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate



Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate



Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senate



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senate

CC: Chairman Marco Rubio, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

CC: Ranking Member Ben Cardin, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship