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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Joe Neguse
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: House Resolution 6467 – Notice of Support

Dear Congressman Neguse,

On behalf of the City of Ontario, California, I am writing to express support for your H.R. 6467, the Coronavirus Community Relief Act. This critical legislation would help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 by providing urgent funding to cities across the United States with populations of 500,000 or less.

While we appreciate the expediency and urgency through which Congress and the President enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, most of the funding allocated to cities omitted units of local government with populations smaller than 500,000 residents. Mid-sized cities across the nation are facing similar challenges as the ones experienced by larger more well-known communities. The sudden slowdown of economic activity due to statewide Stay-at-Home orders, coupled with the deferment of local sales and use taxes, extensions of the property tax deadline and cancellation of penalties have placed significant financial burdens on local governments.

Although we understand the measures are necessary to provide relief to individuals and businesses during times of economic hardships, it is critical that cities, regardless of population size, are also provided adequate tools to successfully fulfill their commitments. Maintaining current service levels is critical to our public health and safety, as well as keeping a certain level of normalcy among our communities and business operations.

For the reasons outlined above, we support the H.R. 6467 and its efforts to allocate funding to small and mid-sized communities. Furthermore, we encourage Congress and the President to include all cities, regardless of size, in upcoming relief packages.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Leon
Mayor