



August 11, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
United States House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: COVID-19 Economic Recovery Measures

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell and Congressman Newhouse,

Thank you for your continued work and leadership in response to COVID-19.

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce is the voice for local business. As such, we support additional economic recovery measures at the federal level, to help businesses weather the storm as they begin to reopen amid COVID-19. The next economic stimulus package will be critical to the economy of our region. Many small businesses are permanently closing, and bigger businesses are facing serious headwinds.

As economic stimulus negotiations continue, the Chamber urges your support of the following measures that will provide stability in Eastern Washington during this global pandemic:

1. [The Paycheck Protection Small Business Forgiveness Act](#), to provide automatic forgiveness for paycheck protection program loans under \$150,000.00.
2. An economic stimulus/recovery bill and supplement to the CARES Act that will:
 - Provide employers and industries in distress with opportunities for extended lending/financial aid to keep from permanently shutting down.

- Limit the weekly extended unemployment insurance benefit to no more than the person was previously making.
- Provide each state a portion of its actual lost tax revenue to share with counties and cities experiencing COVID related revenue gaps to ensure employees (such as first responders and health care providers) stay on the job.
- Include liability protections to guard against a flood of lawsuits. If schools, colleges, hospitals and businesses fear a tidal wave of COVID-19-related lawsuits, they will delay re-opening and re-hiring.
- Include a measure to tame the federal debt once the crisis has passed. To date, over \$4 trillion has been utilized for coronavirus relief. In a time of crisis like this, borrowing is not inappropriate, but a bipartisan process should be put in place to tame deficits and restrain the national debt.

Tri-Citians want to get back to work - and they need to get back to work. With your support, the next stimulus/recovery package can provide critical resources for workers, families and employers - and rescue our region from financial distress.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Lori Mattson, IOM
President & CEO, Tri-City Regional Chamber



Jim Arneson, President, Community First Bank
Chair, Local Government Affairs Committee