

# WESTERN STATES PACT

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

It is now clear that COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future, and the worst of its economic impact is yet to come. Our states are on the front line against the virus while at the same time leading our states' recovery. Each of us has seen first-hand how COVID-19 has caused a national recession that we are seeing play out in our states – resulting in a record amount of lost wages and business failures, spiraling unemployment and substantial, unplanned COVID-19-driven costs.

We deeply appreciated the quick financial assistance you provided workers, small business people and those who have been displaced by this crisis. But now, however, our states will be forced to make deep cuts to programs that help those same individuals without similar relief efforts for state and local governments. Even states that began the year in a strong fiscal position are facing staggering deficits amid growing costs of responding to the crisis. With unemployment projected to surpass that of the Great Recession, we are facing unprecedented and ongoing economic challenges.

Without federal support, states and cities will be forced to make impossible decisions – like whether to fund critical public healthcare that will help us recover, or prevent layoffs of teachers, police officers, firefighters and other first responders. And, without additional assistance, the very programs that will help people get back to work – like job training and help for small business owners – will be forced up on the chopping block.

That's why we are respectfully, and urgently, requesting \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments. Though even this amount will not replace the decline in revenue that we forecast, it will make a meaningful difference in our ability to make-up for COVID-19 revenue losses. This aid would preserve core government services like public health, public safety, public education and help people get back to work. It would help our states and cities come out of this crisis stronger and more resilient.

Red and blue states alike all are faced with the same COVID-19 math, as are Democratic and Republican mayors across our states. The moment requires unprecedented partnership from all of us – across every level of government and across party.

We urge you to take swift action to help states and local governments provide core government services for American families.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California



Jared Polis  
Governor of Colorado



Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore of the  
California State Senate



Leroy Garcia  
President of the Colorado State  
Senate



Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the California State  
Assembly



Steve Fenberg  
Majority Leader of the Colorado  
State Senate



Marie Waldron  
Minority Leader of the California  
State Assembly



KC Becker  
Speaker of the Colorado House of  
Representatives



Alec Garnett  
Majority Leader of the Colorado  
House of Representatives



Kate Brown  
Governor of Oregon



Tina Kotek  
Speaker of the Oregon House of  
Representatives



Peter Courtney  
President of the Oregon Senate



Steve Sisolak  
Governor of Nevada



Nicole Cannizzaro  
Majority Leader of the Nevada  
Senate



Jason Frierson  
Speaker of the Nevada State  
Assembly



Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington



Andy Billig  
Majority Leader of the Washington  
State Senate



Laurie Jenkins  
Speaker of the Washington House of  
Representative

cc: California congressional delegation  
cc: Colorado congressional delegation  
cc: Oregon congressional delegation  
cc: Nevada congressional delegation  
cc: Washington congressional delegation