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

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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JUSTICE, SCIENCE

VICE CHAIR, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER, INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT

DEAN, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

SENIOR WHIP

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As you consider a third economic stimulus package to address the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our nation's people, businesses, and economy, we urge you to make sure your efforts are inclusive of all American citizens, including those living in our nation's territories. We ask that you to be mindful of the underlying inequities in numerous health, nutrition, and infrastructure funding formulas that are critical to responding to the current health crisis and economic dislocation. In particular, as you consider direct payments to American citizens as a method of stimulus, we urge to include language to allow the territories to also benefit from these provisions.

The United States, and much of the rest of the world, has been left economically paralyzed by the current public health crisis. As we work on addressing the crisis in a comprehensive manner, it is important to note that several million U.S. citizens reside in the territories of the United States. Unfortunately, all too often these citizens are ignored in federal government responses. This has been particularly in the case of Puerto Rico, which has suffered from an inadequate federal response to Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquakes.

Previous stimulus packages have included measures to help address the territories in an equitable manner. Both the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) included direct payments to the American people, in the

form of tax rebates administered by the Internal Revenue Service. In both cases, the bills included language to allow American citizens residing in the territories to receive the same level of assistance via alternative methods.¹ These payments were important in helping the recovery efforts in the territories, and we ask that you include similar inclusive language for any payments made in the third supplemental.

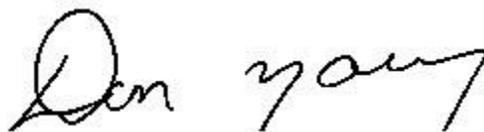
Additionally, ARRA included several provisions to help address inequities in infrastructure funding for the territories, including highway funding and school construction bonds. More critically however, were the significant changes made to payment limitations for social safety net programs such as TANF, Medicaid, and nutrition assistance. All of these are needed in the face of an expected economic downturn.

We believe it is imperative that Congress ensure that all Americans receive aid during this crisis. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our territories are fully included in upcoming aid packages.

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



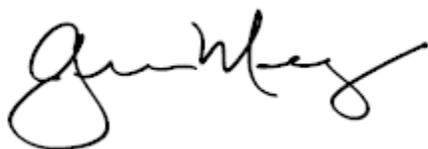
Don Young
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

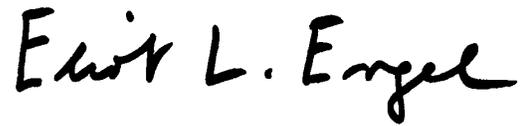
/s/

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

¹ See Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, H.R. 5140, 110th Cong. § 101(c) (2008); American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, 111th Cong. § 1001(b) (2009).



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



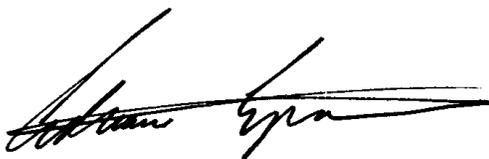
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Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



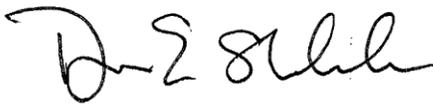
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Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
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/s/

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

/s/

Barbara Lee

Member of Congress