

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Republican Whip
United States House of Representatives
H-148, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leaders Hoyer and McCarthy, and Whip Scalise:

We write to you today as the founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Broadcasters Caucus during negotiations for the next Coronavirus relief package. We respectfully ask for inclusion of a provision desperately needed by our nation's local broadcasters.

Broadcasters across the country have been hit exceptionally hard by this pandemic. Many, especially in radio, rely almost wholly on advertising revenue – income that has dried up as their business partners have closed their doors during the shutdown. As businesses evaluate their necessary expenses during these unprecedented times, advertising has been among the first things cut and will certainly be one of the last to return. Broadcasters have seen these losses range from 50 to 90 percent of their advertising compared to the same periods last year. Some estimate that they may see a decline of more than \$14 billion this year.

Meanwhile, Americans are turning to their local TV and radio stations in record numbers, in search of critical information about the crisis and what it means for their communities. Broadcasters immediately jumped into action, not only producing vital stories related to the pandemic and social injustice, but have aired over 700,000 hours and nearly \$150,000,000 of public service announcements; hosted countless blood and food drives; helped local businesses with promotions and free advertising; and aired events like church services and graduation ceremonies that people weren't able to attend in person.

Many small broadcasters have been able to stay afloat during this time thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program, but their colleagues who are part of larger ownership groups have not had that same benefit, even though the stations are run much the same. In the CARES Act, hotels, restaurants, and others were given the ability to count their employees for the purpose of the PPP by individual location rather than as part of their ownership groups. These are precisely the business partners who have been forced to drop their advertising with broadcasters. We strongly believe that providing local media outlets with this same ability: the ability for those businesses

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that essentially operate independently to count their employees based on their individual locations.

Bipartisan bills (The Local News and Emergency Information Act, H.R. 6897/S.3718) that include this provision have been introduced in both the House and Senate. We request that this provision be included in any final Coronavirus relief package. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this essential relief for America's broadcasters.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress