

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue Northeast
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretaries Mnuchin and Bernhardt,

As the Administration undertakes its work to implement Title V of the CARES Act, we write to underscore congressional intent regarding allowable uses and distribution of the Tribal portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to Tribal governments. We request that you allocate funds solely to Tribal governments and ensure that Michigan tribes receive the resources necessary to address COVID-19.

Michigan's tribal communities are facing unprecedented challenges due to ongoing spread of COVID-19. Michigan Tribal governments have seen serious budget shortfalls as their communities are shouldering additional costs associated with addressing COVID-19 and a loss of revenue from the closure of tribally owned businesses. Title V of the CARES Act created the CRF and reserves \$8 billion within the Fund to alleviate the burden placed on Tribal governments.

The CRF was specifically created to provide assistance to Tribal governments to ensure parity between states, territories, and Tribes. Non-governmental Tribal entities were not intended to be eligible for assistance under the CRF. Unfortunately, the Department of the Treasury's April 13th notice regarding the CRF does not appear to reflect Congress' intent and instead is overly inclusive of for-profit entities. A failure to ameliorate this issue would result in limited-CRF funding being unavailable for federally recognized Tribes that were initially intended to receive this assistance.

We request and appreciate your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Peters /s/
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow /s/
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator