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United States Senate

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April 9, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to request additional guidance for the Coronavirus Relief Fund, authorized under Title V of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136). To ensure appropriate distribution of funds to state, local, and tribal governments, the U.S. Department of the Treasury should act quickly to issue guidance regarding their equitable disbursement.

The unprecedented, nationwide fight against the coronavirus is stretching state, county, and municipal budgets, all while local tax revenues continue to dwindle. Arizona municipalities tell me that they forecast revenue declines of over 20 percent when accounting for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This severely limits their ability to provide basic, essential services that all Americans expect and deserve from their government.

As the Treasury Department publishes guidance clarifying the distribution of Title V funds by states, I encourage you to issue guidance that:

- Explicitly affirms that counties with populations under 500,000 individuals are eligible to receive a portion of the funds allocated to each state;
- Ensures states institute processes that treat counties and municipalities as partners in determining the disbursement of funds and considers the unique characteristics and concerns of rural communities;
- Acknowledges the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on county and municipality budgets; and
- Requires the utilization of the most current American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau in determining the proper disbursement of funds.

In our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all levels of government must continue to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible. Delayed, insufficient funding threatens the livelihoods of Arizonans. I respectfully request the swift publication of guidance related to the distribution of these Title V funds.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Wong on my staff at Michael_Wong@sinema.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyrsten Sinema". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator