Dear Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth. On behalf of our nearly 10,000 members, representing businesses of all sizes and industry types, I am writing to again urge your support for critical COVID-19 economic recovery legislation.

I wrote nearly a month ago urging you to support an earlier piece of critical economic recovery legislation and it was heartening to see members of Congress from both parties work together to develop and pass this bill. The CARES Act provided financial support to help individuals and families get through this difficult time, and threw a number of lifelines to struggling employers. In particular, the CARES Act increased funding for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, which provides low-interest working capital loans for employers, and created the Paycheck Protection Program, which provided potentially forgivable loans for employers to maintain employees on payroll. These programs have been enormously helpful to employers; perhaps particularly in Pennsylvania, which has imposed among the most strict business shutdown orders in the nation and where 20 percent of the workforce has filed for unemployment.

Unfortunately demand for these programs has outpaced supply and we urge you to support legislation to provide additional funding. The economic crisis caused by the pandemic and pause in commercial activity is unprecedented and thus far unrelenting, and so must be the public response. Your cooperation and action passing previous economic relief and recovery bills brought hope and much needed support to struggling Americans and we thank you for continuing this important work.

Thank you.

Gene Barr
President and CEO, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry