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April 15, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As the White House and Congress contemplates how we as a nation address the COVID-19 challenges presented to us, we at the Wisconsin Counties Association and the members we represent are extremely appreciative of the good work you have done thus far during these unprecedented times.

With debate surrounding a package that will assist local units of government, we know you understand the critical role Wisconsin counties play in the arena of public health and human services.

As such, we strongly urge you to consider:

- Modifying previous passed language permitting counties with a population of 500,000 or more to receive a direct allocation from Treasury;
- Not using the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula to distribute funds to local governments. The CDBG formula does not adequately address the needs of counties or recognize the service delivery mechanisms used to serve Wisconsin citizens;
- Dividing the funds being allocated to local units of government and creating a separate allocation for counties only;

Allocating funds to address the ill effects of the pandemic is important. Even more important is ensuring that the funds are delivered to those areas of local government which are most in need and on the front lines of fighting the pandemic.

We thank you for your consideration of the above three points. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Mark D. O'Connell
Executive Director
Wisconsin Counties Association