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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
 United States Senate  
 331 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for the local government assistance for pandemic relief that is contained in President Biden's proposed *American Rescue Plan*.

The County strongly supports the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund that is in the House-passed H.R. 1319, the *American Rescue Plan of 2021*. H.R. 1319 includes \$130.2 billion for local government fiscal relief that would be split evenly between cities and counties. As the Senate begins consideration of the bill this week, we request your continued support for this critical funding for local governments, including the provisions ensuring direct payments to counties of all sizes and eligible uses that allow the maximum flexibility to use funds for pandemic relief and economic recovery.

Recent reports that some Senators are considering diverting Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to other programs are very concerning given the significant responsibilities of counties on the front lines of pandemic response. As a result of the pandemic, the County of Santa Barbara has increased spending to provide crucial public health services, emergency costs and help communities adapt to State COVID-19 Guidelines. In California, counties are mandated to be the safety-net for our communities, while managing the emergency operations center activity and continuing to provide law enforcement, detention facilities and coroner services, judicial services through the District Attorney and Public Defender, veterans' services, behavioral and public health services, social services, including sheltering of the homeless population, foster care, adoption assistance and general relief, among many other essential county functions.

Given this role at the front lines of this crisis, please work to allocate resources directly to counties. Thank you again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg