

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
ON RURAL RESOURCES



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

April 20, 2020

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of the residents of our region during these unprecedented times. Now, more than ever, it is important that all levels of government work together to coordinate the response to this crisis.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate's Standing Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business and the Committee on Tourism, I write to you regarding the Phase 4 stimulus relief package and request that you provide additional assistance for our small businesses and farms. Specifically, I urge you to replenish the Emergency Economic Injury Grants under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program as these grants are vital to our small businesses.

I also request that funds be earmarked for businesses with 100 employees or less. As we know, in previous phases of the federal stimulus relief package, funds were distributed to businesses with fewer than 500 employees. However, by setting aside funds for smaller businesses, we can help our Main Street businesses.

Small businesses account for 64% of all new job creation in this country. Without additional funding, we will see many fail, doing irreparable harm to both our economy and their employees.

We have all seen firsthand how hard New York State and specifically, our region has been impacted by COVID-19. As we know, the success of small business, agriculture and tourism are necessary to our region. As we have seen through this pandemic, it is critical that we support and grow manufacturers that make their products here in the United States.

Unfortunately, some of these businesses may never recover from the impact of COVID-19. By providing additional assistance to our small businesses, we are providing them with a fighting chance at remaining viable. Funds specifically earmarked for small businesses and the Emergency Economic Injury Grants, though small to some, can significantly help many small businesses through the worst of this pandemic, especially our seasonal businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela A. Helming".

Pam Helming
Senator, 54th District