

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C., 20429

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write to request that the Treasury Department urgently provide additional guidance in support of Ohio townships. As we have previously written, the final passed version of *the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law No: 117-2)* does not clearly state that townships are eligible for funding under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund due to the definition of “non-entitlement unit of local government.”

On May 10, 2021, the Treasury Department released long awaited interim rules on the use and eligibility of funding under *P.L. 117-2*. Unfortunately, the interim rules did not clarify the eligibility of townships to receive this funding, and instead states that “Treasury plans to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units in the coming days.”

As you work on these final rules on the distribution to non-entitlement units of government, we ask that you make explicit that Ohio townships are eligible. Ohio townships provide critical services to their communities similar to that of cities, including police and fire protection, maintenance of roads, emergency medical services, solid waste disposal and zoning. The intent of the legislation was to provide assistance to local governments in the wake of the pandemic, and further guidance should reflect Congressional intent by deeming townships eligible.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue that disproportionately impacts local governments throughout the state of Ohio. If you would like to discuss this issue further prior to a final decision, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress




Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
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Michael R. Turner
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David P. Joyce
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