



Chemung County  
Chamber of Commerce



July 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide that certain Chambers of Commerce and Destination Marketing Organizations are eligible for loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes (S.3992 / H.R.7397).

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

On behalf of the members of the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your response to the COVID-19 crisis and for your leadership during this time. Today, I write to urge you to permit 501(c)(6) Chambers of Commerce and other non-profit organizations to be eligible to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and to extend the application deadline for the PPP.

Section 1102 of the CARES Act restricts eligibility to participate in the program to certain small businesses, 501(c)(3) non-profits, sole proprietorships, and 501(c)(19) veterans' organizations. Local Chambers of Commerce are playing a critical role during this crisis- assisting small businesses, promoting economic development, sharing information, and providing essential resources- and yet are struggling themselves from the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. Eligibility for the PPP funding will be a key step towards ensuring Chambers of Commerce will survive this crisis and continue to assist the communities they serve during our nation's recovery.

Respectfully, I urge you to please make available the PPP program to 501(c)(6) Chambers of Commerce and other non-profits and extend the application deadline.

Sincerely,

Kamala A. Keeley  
President & Chief Executive Officer