



Chemung County  
Chamber of Commerce



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand,

On behalf of the members of the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, we urge Congress to pass critical pandemic relief for small businesses and families before the end of this year. We know that enacting a bill will require bipartisan compromise. The release of a proposal from a bipartisan group of Senate and House members as well as the revisions to the Senate GOP proposal provide an opening to break the current impasse. We encourage you to: (1) push for a bipartisan agreement that can pass this year and (2) ensure that as the bill is drafted the PPP provision provide for support for all non-profits including 501(c)(6)s and the liability provisions provide meaningful protection like Senators Cornyn's and McConnell's Safe to Work Act.

The cost of Congress failing to act could be catastrophic for New York State:

- According to recent Census Bureau polling,
  - 32.7% of New Yorkers expect to lose employment income in the next month
  - 11.7% are either not current on their rent or mortgage or have little confidence they can make next month's payment
- On December 26, unemployment benefits for approximately 1,126,393 individuals in New York will expire.
- This month more small businesses in New York have reduced employment (11.3%) than increased employment (4%).
- Nearly 39.1% of New York small businesses saw a drop in revenue this month.
- 74.8% of New York small businesses received assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program.
  - But nearly all have exhausted their PPP funding and nearly 31.3% expect to need additional financial assistance in the next six months.

Your efforts to complete a pandemic relief bill prior to the end of the year will save countless small businesses and families across New York State and right here in the Southern Tier.

I want to thank you for your leadership and continued work to protect Americans, stabilize the economy, and ensure the survival of key institutions and sectors during this challenging time. It's our hope the above items will provide the minimum additional support mechanisms required to ensure that our community can withstand this current economic crisis and eventually begin the road to recovery.

Thanks again for all you do. Our future, truly, is in your hands.

Kamala A. Keeley  
President & CEO  
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce