

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

March 24, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write to seek urgent clarification on funding eligibility for townships in the State of Ohio. It has come to our attention that language included in the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2) brings into question whether Ohio townships are eligible for the state and local funding authorized in the bill.

We were disappointed that the American Rescue Plan was not developed in a bipartisan way, as the previous five coronavirus relief bills have been. It has come to our attention that Ohio's townships face great uncertainty in funding through this legislation, which impacts their ability to plan to provide critical services to their citizens. Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan provided \$360 billion in coronavirus recovery funds for states, local governments, territories, and Tribal governments. However, the definition of a "nonentitlement unit of local government" calls into question whether Ohio's townships are eligible for this funding.

Ohio has more than 1,300 townships throughout the state that provide critical support for their residents similar to cities, including police and fire protection, maintenance of roads, emergency medical services, solid waste disposal, and zoning. Since cities and other municipalities of similar size are eligible for funding under the legislation, it seems only appropriate that townships should also qualify.

We ask that you quickly make this determination and include townships for eligibility. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to continue to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and to address other issues facing our nation. We remain hopeful that we will be able to work in a bipartisan way on behalf of the American people.

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
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Members of Congress