April 26, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

As the Department of the Treasury works to issue guidance for the administration and distribution of funds provided in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), I write regarding the ARP’s Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The guidance and regulations the Department will promulgate will affect the local non-entitlement municipalities in my congressional district as well as across the country. I have met with local leaders who stand ready to allocate these funds once they are received from the State of Texas. In our discussions, several matters arose where clarification from your Department on the following terms would be useful in the forthcoming guidance:

- “Sewer”: Specifically, to ensure the inclusion of storm sewer-related expenditures within the appropriate use of funds.
- “Lost revenue”: Specifically, whether this includes interest income and court fines within the appropriate use of funds, if revenue streams from these sources is historically demonstrated.
- “During the course of the pandemic”: to provide a definitive timeframe within which expenditures fall.
- “Premiums paid to essential workers”: Specifically, a defined timeframe when the work was completed and when the funds may be expended.
- “Budget”: Additional definition of what may be included in calculating the total municipality budget and whether specific parameters as to what can be included apply.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to ensure that the funds allocated for coronavirus relief and recovery are used for the greatest possible benefit by our local governments. Should you have any questions about these requests or need any further information, I will make myself available at any time.

With best regards,

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress