

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
403 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

We write to thank you for your work in implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and for supporting America's small businesses as they work to maintain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We ask that as you work to implement the Paycheck Protection Program, you ensure that rural electric cooperatives, as private corporate business concerns operating on a cooperative basis, will be considered eligible recipients under the program. Electric cooperatives are privately-owned businesses, formed by and for the benefit of the communities that they serve, primarily in rural America.

The CARES Act, and the Paycheck Protection Program in particular, was designed to provide support to small businesses across the country, many of which face significant challenges retaining employees, maintaining payroll, and covering daily expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is generally available to "any business concern" that meets SBA size standards (as well as other eligible entities). Nearly all electric cooperatives are classified as "small" businesses under SBA's size standards, with the average distribution cooperative employing under 50 people. As these electric co-ops face the same challenges as many other small businesses, we believe the Small Business Administration should ensure they are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program.

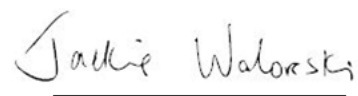
As you develop the guidance, regulations, and application forms for implementing the Paycheck Protection Program and other provisions of the CARES Act, we request you ensure America's electric cooperatives are deemed as qualifying business concerns and are able to fully participate and benefit as small businesses serving their local communities.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to continuing to work with you to implement the CARES Act in a timely manner. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

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