

SCOTT H. PETERS  
52<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



2338 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0508

4350 EXECUTIVE DRIVE, SUITE 105  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121  
(858) 455-5550

**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

Thank you for your agencies' efforts to administer the Paycheck Protection Program, established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. As you know, funding for PPP has now run out, and Congress is quickly negotiating additional funding to support more small businesses. Small businesses and non-profit organizations in my district have run into several obstacles to receive funding.

I write to ask your agencies make the following administrative fixes to the program to ensure its success:

- 1) **Increase the number of PPP lenders:** Participating lenders have been overwhelmed by demand. SBA can expand the pool of lenders by reforming loan volume and Bank Secrecy Act requirements, allowing more non-bank, fintech lenders to participate. If more lenders are able to provide loans, loan applications will be more spread out.
- 2) **Direct banks to accommodate all interested customers:** If a bank chooses to participate in lending PPP loans, all banks should reasonably accept new customers seeking these loans. Congress intentionally limited liability for banks, and banks are not taking any credit risk in issuing these loans. SBA and Treasury should prohibit lenders from exercising any exclusionary practices.
- 3) **Clarify the loan process for applicants who applied before funds ran out:** Many small businesses had applied for a loan prior to the PPP running out of funds. Furthermore, more businesses were preparing applications, and banks aren't accepting new applications. Guidance should be issued to make clear that, contingent upon new appropriations of Congress, banks can accept and process applications now, so businesses can be ready to receive funds.
- 4) **Expedite EIDL advances for small businesses:** Small businesses need immediate relief, yet many have not been able to receive the \$10,000 emergency grants within three days;

some have waited weeks. I understand demand is extremely high for EIDL grants, but SBA has failed to meet congressional intent to issue these grants as soon as possible.

- 5) **Provide guidance on loan forgiveness:** Small businesses are trying to balance their budgets and making tough decisions. In order to spend their PPP funds prudently, they need clear rules to know how they can meet forgiveness terms.

Implementing these suggestions will mean a world of difference for small businesses across the country. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress