

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting local communities across our nation in unprecedented ways. All Americans are attempting to understand the full measure of this crisis, even as it continues to evolve on a daily basis. As in many of our nation's most challenging times, the public turns to free and local media for life-saving information and breaking news, because local radio, television and newspapers are still the most trusted sources in times of emergency and disaster. We urge you work with us in ensuring that local media can continue to inform communities, even as these outlets face unprecedented economic distress.

Local news and information on radio, television and newsprint is more in demand than ever, yet local media outlets are experiencing catastrophic losses in the advertising revenue that allows them to continue investing in providing that news to the public. This national emergency has caused a near halt to local business activity and in turn, the regular and vital advertising they purchase from local media. Without advertising revenue, local media outlets cannot survive.

We believe that Executive Branch agencies have a powerful opportunity to support local media and promote public awareness by directing that federal spending on advertising be prioritized for local media outlets. Specifically, we encourage federal agencies to put into action today already funded campaigns to achieve certain public objectives as well as potential promotions of the economic stimulus programs provided for by the CARES Act and other recent legislation. We urge you to:

- 1) Direct your Cabinet secretaries to review any resources intended to be used for advertising campaigns and have them expedite such activities with local media outlets;
- 2) Direct federal agency advertising dollars for existing and new federal programs where community outreach is needed for spending with local media, including those serving minority and rural communities; and
- 3) Incentivize a portion of stimulus funds provided to businesses for their recovery efforts for advertising on local media.

To get America moving again and strengthen our communities in the midst of this evolving crisis, we must be creative and use all available tools. Advertising plays an incredible role in local economies, and its importance to the sustainability of local broadcast stations and newspapers cannot be overstated. We thank you for your efforts so that Americans may continue to rely on the sources of local information they trust the most.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES:

Paul Tonko
Don Bacon
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Brian Higgins
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Cedric Richmond
Doris Matsui
Ilhan Omar
Kendra S. Horn
Russ Fulcher
Salud O. Carbajal
Michael T. McCaul
Stephen Lynch
Gerald E. Connolly
Angie Craig
Bobby L. Rush
Jeff Van Drew
Tom Malinowski
Chris Pappas
G. K. Butterfield
Sylvia R. Garcia
Joyce Beatty
Rodney Davis

Joe Wilson
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Nydia M Velázquez
Ben Ray Lujan
Jimmy Gomez
Ron Kind
David Scott
John B. Larson
Jimmy Panetta
Dutch Ruppersberger
Brian Fitzpatrick
Carolyn B. Maloney
Henry Cuellar
Mike Bost
Vicente Gonzalez
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Rick Crawford
Adriano Espaillat
William Timmons
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Joe Courtney
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David Price
Ben Cline
Al Lawson
Sheila Jackson Lee
Richard E. Neal
Tom Cole
David Rouzer
Andy Harris, M.D.
Tom Graves
Chip Roy
Ralph Abraham
Tim Burchett
Bradley Byrne
Tony Cardenas
David Cicilline
Yvette Clarke
Collin C. Peterson
Doug Collins
Jim Cooper
Joe Cunningham
Chuck Fleischmann
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Paul Gosar

Debra Haaland
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Peter King
Annie Kuster
Debbie Lesko
Ben McAdams
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Seth Moulton
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Steve Stivers
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Sharice Davids
Max Rose
Dina Titus
Mario Diaz-Balart
Tulsi Gabbard
Fred Keller
Jamie Herrera Beutler
Pete Olson
Steve Cohen
Peter Welch
Andy Biggs
David P. Roe, M.D.
Tim Walberg
John Shimkus
Ralph Norman
Steve Chabot
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Carole Miller
Jackie Walorski
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Garret Graves
Bill Foster
Lori Trahan
Abby Finkenauer
Rosa DeLauro

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Betty McCollum
Veronica Escobar
Rob Bishop
Jim Banks
Suzan K. DelBene
Jason Crow
Pete Stauber
Lucy McBath
Jeff Duncan
Drew Ferguson
Jason Smith
Guy Reschenthaler
Richard Hudson
Robert Aderholt
Kurt Schrader
Anthony Gonzalez
Darin LaHood
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Mike Gallagher
Greg Gianforte
Jack Bergman
Mike Simpson
Andy Barr
David P. Joyce
Brad Schneider
Hal Rogers
Mark Walker
Bryan Steil
Michael Guest
Theodore E. Deutch
Susie Lee
John Rose
Brian Mast
Pramila Jayapal
John Yarmuth
Zoe Lofgren
Steven Palazzo
Dan Kildee
Steve Womack
Steve King
Antonio Delgado
Alma Adams
Troy Balderson
Anthony Brindisi
Anthony Brown

Larry Buchson
Liz Cheney
Emanuel Cleaver
Mike Conaway
Tom Emmer
Eliot Engel
Anna Eshoo
Jeff Fortenberry
Virginia Foxx
Jared Golden
Josh Gottheimer
Raul Grijalva
Kevin Hern
Will Hurd
Derek Kilmer
Adam Kinzinger
Rick Larsen
David Loebsack
Frank Lucas
Grace Meng
Joe Morelle
Grace Napolitano
Joe Neguse
Tom O'Halleran
Dean Phillips
Mark Pocan
Kathleen Rice
Mike Rogers
Jan Schakowsky
David Schweikert
Terri Sewell
Norma Torres
Michael Turner
Filemon Vela
Brad Wenstrup
Bruce Westerman
Don Young
Dan Newhouse
Greg Murphy
Glenn Grothman
Bob Latta
Ted Budd
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