

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Steve Mnuchin
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

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

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza,

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone at the Department of Treasury (Treasury) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) for your tireless efforts on behalf of the American people during this challenging time. Without swift and decisive action from agency officials, much needed relief would never reach the American people. I write today concerning a portion of that relief which has unfortunately proven difficult to access for community banks – the entities our small businesses are depending on for help in processing their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications.

I have heard from a number of community banks in Georgia that are struggling to access E-Tran, SBA's system for processing PPP loans and a necessary component of borrower approval. Unfortunately, it seems community banks have been inadvertently shoved out of the application process. Instead, larger banks are flooding the system and rendering it inaccessible to smaller lenders, which are applying on behalf of many small businesses across America, including those left out of the first round of funding.

While I understand the demand for the program is great, that is all the more reason for SBA and Treasury to issue guidance to make it easier for smaller, community banks to access the systems necessary for providing their borrowers with the opportunity to benefit from PPP. Just as we saw with the first round of PPP funding, these dollars can be drained quickly by larger businesses who may or may not need payroll assistance. As the second round of PPP funding began to flow, it became clear that larger banks – many representing larger businesses – again dominated the first days' worth of funding.

I urge Treasury and SBA to issue prompt guidance explaining how the loan-processing system will be made available to all sizes of lenders and how the agencies will prevent future rounds of funding from being dominated by larger banks. I also request Treasury and SBA publicize which companies have received PPP loans to ensure Congress and the American people can understand where their taxpayer dollars have flowed.

Again, thank you both for your hard work on behalf of the American people and our economy during this pandemic. I appreciate the countless hours you and your staff have put in making sure that American families get their economic impact payments and that small businesses get the disaster relief they need.

Please reach out to my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Doug Collins
Member of Congress