



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889

416 N. Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 961-2823
Fax: (707) 961-2802

April 13, 2020

Re: Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

Dear Representative:

We, the Fort Bragg City Council, request that you, as our representative, work to increase rural access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and all subsequent federal disaster relief programs for small businesses, individuals and regional governments with populations under 500,000. It is our belief that rural areas are being disproportionately denied access to critical disaster relief funding within the current parameters.

The majority of our small businesses entered the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place mandate without financial reserves and are in dire need of assistance programs administered through the SBA. However, these same businesses have found they are unable to access the PPP application due to limited financial institutions in our region.

In order for rural areas to gain access to much needed relief programs, PPP must be opened up to a broader range of lending institutions, and those lenders must open the application process to non-customers. Our rural economies are particularly fragile at this time and need the immediate support of our state and federal legislators.

Thank you for your ongoing service and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William V. Lee
Mayor

Bernie Norvell
Vice Mayor

Teresa K. Albin-Smith
Councilmember

Jessica Morsell-Haye
Councilmember

Lindy Peters
Councilmember