

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Neil A. Morgan



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Walter C. Zaremba

District 1

Sheila S. Noll

District 2

W. Chad Green

District 3

Jeffrey D. Wassmer

District 4

Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

District 5

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Luria
United States Congress
534 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Luria:

I'm writing to urge you to please sign the bipartisan letter to support counties in the next relief package before today's April 30th deadline. While I'm certain you have heard that, across America, counties operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments. In addition, they are responsible for other essential functions including emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services, coroners, and medical examiners, but what I also want you to be aware of is the direct impact on York County specifically.

York County relies heavily on tourism which impacts directly on our consumer taxes, such as sales tax, tourism sales tax, meals tax and lodging tax to fund our essential County and School services. Those revenues which represent 14% of the County's total revenues have already been hit hard and we anticipate these revenues to decline sharply and recover slowly. At the same time, our citizens and businesses are encountering financial hardships which are expected to result in lower collections related to our primary revenue streams of real estate and personal property taxes. Just two months ago we anticipated a \$2.5 million revenue surplus and now it has not only evaporated but a \$6.7 million anticipated revenue reduction is expected to result in a \$4.2 million dollar shortfall by the time we reach June 30th. Another \$7 million loss in the next fiscal year is projected which will be devastating to York County's finances. At this point, we have frozen positions; asked departments to only spend funds on essential purchases which are primarily COVID 19 supplies; postponed the County and School capital projects for at least a year; and cancelled most tourism events while at the same time incurring costs specific to COVID 19 and providing unprecedented relief to our citizens and businesses who may be experiencing cash flow challenges.

Our counties act as our nation's front-line of defense in the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This is an especially challenging time when we need to support our front-line employees, which include not only public safety fire and sheriff employees, but also other front-line

224 Ballard Street • P.O. Box 532 • Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 • (757) 890-3320

Fax: (757) 890-4002 • TDD (757) 890-3621 • Email: bos@yorkcounty.gov

A Hampton Roads Community

Congresswoman Luria
April 30, 2020
Page 2

employees, typically not discussed, such as our Treasurer's office tellers who closely serve the public and require consideration for protective measures.

These realities place a strain on the budgets of our counties at a time when your constituents need their support the most. Moving forward, we ask that you support empowering our local governments with greater flexibility to spend federal relief dollars as they see fit, including to help make up for the loss of expected tax revenues or other unexpected budget shortfalls. While the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was an important first step in getting much-needed relief to our localities, the additional stipulation that only localities of over 500,000 residents would receive direct funding makes it difficult for counties to know how much of their state's allocation will be available for their needs. We ask that you consider that smaller counties be provided with adequate resources to successfully address the needs of their residents and maintain critical employment. As we all grapple with this unprecedented crisis, it is important that Congress invest in all communities of all sizes and make sure that the aid provided reflects the unique role our county governments have played in the response.

We ask that you please sign on to this letter, please fill out **this form** by **Close of Business on April 30 (Thursday)**.

Sincerely,



W. Chad Green
Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

WCG:vhd

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors
Neil A. Morgan, York County Administrator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Neil A. Morgan



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Walter C. Zaremba
District 1
Sheila S. Noll
District 2
W. Chad Green
District 3
Jeffrey D. Wassmer
District 4
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
District 5

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

I'm writing to urge you to please sign the bipartisan letter to support counties in the next relief package before today's April 30th deadline. While I'm certain you have heard that, across America, counties operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments. In addition, they are responsible for other essential functions including emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services, coroners, and medical examiners, but what I also want you to be aware of is the direct impact on York County specifically.

York County is a tourist community that relies heavily on consumer taxes, such as sales tax, tourism sales tax, meals tax and lodging tax to fund our essential County and School services. Those revenues which represent 14% of the County's total revenues have already been hit hard and we anticipate these revenues to decline sharply and recover slowly. At the same time, our citizens and businesses are encountering financial hardships which are expected to result in lower collections related to our primary revenue streams of real estate and personal property taxes. Just two months ago we anticipated a \$2.5 million revenue surplus and now it has not only evaporated but a \$6.7 million anticipated revenue reduction is expected to result in a \$4.2 million dollar shortfall by the time we reach June 30th. Another \$7 million loss in the next fiscal year is projected which will be devastating to York County's finances. At this point, we have frozen positions; asked departments to only spend funds on essential purchases which are primarily COVID 19 supplies; postponed the County and School capital projects for at least a year; and cancelled most tourism events while at the same time incurring costs specific to COVID 19 and providing unprecedented relief to our citizens and businesses who may be experiencing cash flow challenges.

Our counties act as our nation's front-line of defense in the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This is an especially challenging time when we need to support our front-line employees, which include not only public safety fire and sheriff employees, but also other front-line

Senator Kaine
April 30, 2020
Page 2

employees, typically not discussed, such as our Treasurer's office tellers who closely serve the public and require consideration for protective measures.

These realities place a strain on the budgets of our counties at a time when your constituents need their support the most. Moving forward, we ask that you support empowering our local governments with greater flexibility to spend federal relief dollars as they see fit, including to help make up for the loss of expected tax revenues or other unexpected budget shortfalls. While the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was an important first step in getting much-needed relief to our localities, the additional stipulation that only localities of over 500,000 residents would receive direct funding makes it difficult for counties to know how much of their state's allocation will be available for their needs. We ask that you consider that smaller counties be provided with adequate resources to successfully address the needs of their residents and maintain critical employment. As we all grapple with this unprecedented crisis, it is important that Congress invest in all communities of all sizes and make sure that the aid provided reflects the unique role our county governments have played in the response.

We ask that you please sign on to this letter, please fill out **this form** by **Close of Business on April 30 (Thursday)**.

Sincerely,



W. Chad Green
Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

WCG:vhd

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors
Neil A. Morgan, York County Administrator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Neil A. Morgan



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Walter C. Zaremba
District 1
Sheila S. Noll
District 2
W. Chad Green
District 3
Jeffrey D. Wassmer
District 4
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
District 5

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
United States Senate
475 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

I'm writing to urge you to please sign the bipartisan letter to support counties in the next relief package before today's April 30th deadline. While I'm certain you have heard that, across America, counties operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments. In addition, they are responsible for other essential functions including emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services, coroners, and medical examiners, but what I also want you to be aware of is the direct impact on York County specifically.

York County is a tourist community that relies heavily on consumer taxes, such as sales tax, tourism sales tax, meals tax and lodging tax to fund our essential County and School services. Those revenues which represent 14% of the County's total revenues have already been hit hard and we anticipate these revenues to decline sharply and recover slowly. At the same time, our citizens and businesses are encountering financial hardships which are expected to result in lower collections related to our primary revenue streams of real estate and personal property taxes. Just two months ago we anticipated a \$2.5 million revenue surplus and now it has not only evaporated but a \$6.7 million anticipated revenue reduction is expected to result in a \$4.2 million dollar shortfall by the time we reach June 30th. Another \$7 million loss in the next fiscal year is projected which will be devastating to York County's finances. At this point, we have frozen positions; asked departments to only spend funds on essential purchases which are primarily COVID 19 supplies; postponed the County and School capital projects for at least a year; and cancelled most tourism events while at the same time incurring costs specific to COVID 19 and providing unprecedented relief to our citizens and businesses who may be experiencing cash flow challenges.

Our counties act as our nation's front-line of defense in the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This is an especially challenging time when we need to support our front-line employees, which include not only public safety fire and sheriff employees, but also other front-line

Senator Warner
April 30, 2020
Page 2

employees, typically not discussed, such as our Treasurer's office tellers who closely serve the public and require consideration for protective measures.

These realities place a strain on the budgets of our counties at a time when your constituents need their support the most. Moving forward, we ask that you support empowering our local governments with greater flexibility to spend federal relief dollars as they see fit, including to help make up for the loss of expected tax revenues or other unexpected budget shortfalls. While the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was an important first step in getting much-needed relief to our localities, the additional stipulation that only localities of over 500,000 residents would receive direct funding makes it difficult for counties to know how much of their state's allocation will be available for their needs. We ask that you consider that smaller counties be provided with adequate resources to successfully address the needs of their residents and maintain critical employment. As we all grapple with this unprecedented crisis, it is important that Congress invest in all communities of all sizes and make sure that the aid provided reflects the unique role our county governments have played in the response.

We ask that you please sign on to this letter, please fill out **this form** by **Close of Business on April 30 (Thursday)**.

Sincerely,



W. Chad Green
Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

WCG:vhd

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors
Neil A. Morgan, York County Administrator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Neil A. Morgan



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Walter C. Zaremba
District 1
Sheila S. Noll
District 2
W. Chad Green
District 3
Jeffrey D. Wassmer
District 4
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
District 5

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

I'm writing to urge you to please sign the bipartisan letter to support counties in the next relief package before today's April 30th deadline. While I'm certain you have heard that, across America, counties operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments. In addition, they are responsible for other essential functions including emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services, coroners, and medical examiners, but what I also want you to be aware of is the direct impact on York County specifically.

York County is a tourist community that relies heavily on consumer taxes, such as sales tax, tourism sales tax, meals tax and lodging tax to fund our essential County and School services. Those revenues which represent 14% of the County's total revenues have already been hit hard and we anticipate these revenues to decline sharply and recover slowly. At the same time, our citizens and businesses are encountering financial hardships which are expected to result in lower collections related to our primary revenue streams of real estate and personal property taxes. Just two months ago we anticipated a \$2.5 million revenue surplus and now it has not only evaporated but a \$6.7 million anticipated revenue reduction is expected to result in a \$4.2 million dollar shortfall by the time we reach June 30th. Another \$7 million loss in the next fiscal year is projected which will be devastating to York County's finances. At this point, we have frozen positions; asked departments to only spend funds on essential purchases which are primarily COVID 19 supplies; postponed the County and School capital projects for at least a year; and cancelled most tourism events while at the same time incurring costs specific to COVID 19 and providing unprecedented relief to our citizens and businesses who may be experiencing cash flow challenges.

Our counties act as our nation's front-line of defense in the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This is an especially challenging time when we need to support our front-line employees, which include not only public safety fire and sheriff employees, but also other front-line

224 Ballard Street • P.O. Box 532 • Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 • (757) 890-3320
Fax: (757) 890-4002 • TDD (757) 890-3621 • Email: bos@yorkcounty.gov
A Hampton Roads Community

employees, typically not discussed, such as our Treasurer's office tellers who closely serve the public and require consideration for protective measures.

These realities place a strain on the budgets of our counties at a time when your constituents need their support the most. Moving forward, we ask that you support empowering our local governments with greater flexibility to spend federal relief dollars as they see fit, including to help make up for the loss of expected tax revenues or other unexpected budget shortfalls. While the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was an important first step in getting much-needed relief to our localities, the additional stipulation that only localities of over 500,000 residents would receive direct funding makes it difficult for counties to know how much of their state's allocation will be available for their needs. We ask that you consider that smaller counties be provided with adequate resources to successfully address the needs of their residents and maintain critical employment. As we all grapple with this unprecedented crisis, it is important that Congress invest in all communities of all sizes and make sure that the aid provided reflects the unique role our county governments have played in the response.

We ask that you please sign on to this letter, please fill out **this form** by **Close of Business on April 30 (Thursday)**.

Sincerely,



W. Chad Green
Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

WCG:vhd

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors
Neil A. Morgan, York County Administrator