



MARCY KAPTUR
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

April 24, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

Thank you for your critical leadership to keep Ohioans safe during this challenging time for our Nation. Your administration has taken an aggressive and evidence-based approach to this crisis. Our state owes you a debt of gratitude in this difficult time. Your action to date leaves me hopeful all Ohioans can expect a fair and equitable disbursement of CARES Act funding provided to the state for localities with fewer than 500,000 people. I encourage one based on population density and the local, county and municipal budget impacts of COVID-19.

As you know, with Ohioans sheltered at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates in the Buckeye State have soared quickly to over 850,000. Additionally, mayors and municipal executives from across my district and the state, face dire budget shortfalls from the sudden drop in economic activity and increased expenditures to contain the pandemic. In response, Congress passed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), a historic piece of legislation to rescue our families, stabilize our economy, and infuse states and localities with financial support.

The Act provides for the Coronavirus Relief Fund under Section 5001, which will provide \$4.53 billion dollars for the State of Ohio. Localities with more than 500,000 people will receive direct payments if they certify, and those with fewer people will rely on equitable disbursement from the State of Ohio. In my district, Cuyahoga County is eligible for direct funding. But my other communities deserve equal attention in dollars disbursed to the State. Larger cities in Northern Ohio and in other regions of the state face increased threats of virus spread due to population densities. Many of these urban areas and city tax bases have not fully recovered from the 2008 Great Recession. These communities will count on the federal assistance to not only ensure robust public health responses, but to also ensure a speedy economic recovery.

In the past, the State of Ohio has not always equally advantaged Northern Ohio in funding decisions. At times funds are disbursed without regard to the region's relative population. For example, urban areas in the north will not see returned a fair share of the new 10.5 cent state gas tax earnings for transportation projects in Ohio. The state gas tax receipts are not equitably distributed, rather they are equally divided amongst the 88 Ohio counties. In this instance, communities with larger populations or higher percentages of vehicle miles traveled on roads in those communities are disadvantaged. As a whole, the State suffers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to follow the intent of the law and allocate these funds to localities based on population. Congress has a direct stake to ensure funds appropriated by the federal treasury are distributed equitably.

This crisis is unfortunately in its early days and action now holds great impact on scope and intensity of future waves. I look forward to ongoing collaboration with you and your office in the months ahead. We can overcome these challenges by working collaboratively. Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Kaptur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress