

November 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United State Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United State Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

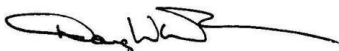
The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) represents construction contractors, manufacturers, and distributors who build and maintain a wide range of underground facilities and transportation infrastructure. Member companies provide the manpower and equipment needed to build, repair, and maintain the infrastructure needed for gas distribution, water and wastewater infrastructure, broadband and electric power, as well as the nation's surface transportation system.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic blindsided the nation in March, NUCA has worked to 1) ensure that the utility construction industry was considered an "essential" part of the American workforce and remained on the job, and 2) ensure that funding for critical infrastructure, such as water and sewer infrastructure improvements and broadband deployment projects was made available.

On March 27th, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law, establishing a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for States, local, territorial, and tribal government entities. The law came with a few stipulations, including a requirement that the payments from the Fund only be used to cover expenses that were incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020, when allowable use of CARES Act funding expires.

NUCA believes the need to ensure access to broadband is paramount. At a time when telemedicine, learning from home and doing business "virtually" versus face-to-face meetings are on the rise, the need to keep Americans connected is more important now than ever. However, the allowable use of critical dollars provided in the CARES Act will no longer be available unless the deadline of December 30th is extended. Legislation such as the State and Local Coronavirus Relief Fund Extension Act (S 4494) and the Leveraging Options for Counties and Localities (LOCAL) Act (HR 7854) would push the deadline for government entities to spend CARES act dollars to December 31, 2021. The need for this action is critical, and we encourage you to advance this legislation in your respective chambers as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Doug Carlson
Chief Executive Officer