**DRAFT**

October XX, 2021

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

XXXX \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE:** **SUPPORT the *STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL and TERRITORIAL FISCAL RECOVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE, and DISASTER RELIEF FLEXIBILITY ACT* (S. 3011)**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Supervisors, I’m writing to urge you to seek swift passage of the *State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* (S. 3011). This important bipartisan legislation, which recently cleared the Senate by unanimous consent, would provide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County with much-needed flexibility as it pertains to the use of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars authorized by the *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA).

As you know, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County has been at the forefront of responding to the devastating public health and economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Since the passage of ARPA, our County has been assessing community recovery needs in order to help inform the development of a Local Recovery Fund investment plan. While ARPA explicitly allows Recovery Fund allocations to be spent on water, sewer, and broadband projects, investments in other key infrastructure categories are not permitted under the law.

Pursuant to S. 3011, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County would be allowed to spend a portion of our COVID-19 relief dollars for a wide range of infrastructure-related purposes, including, but not limited to: road, bridge, and safety improvement projects; public transit; and, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. [Placeholder for specific local project example(s).] This change in law would help ensure that our County and other jurisdictions are able to utilize federal COVID-19-relief funds in the manner that best suits individual community infrastructure needs and priorities.

In addition to the aforementioned provisions, S. 3011 would allow states and local governments to spend ARPA funds to provide emergency relief from natural disasters and their negative economic impacts, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other needs. Furthermore, the bill would provide additional ARPA expenditure flexibility by allowing entities to allocate up to $10 million of their Recovery Fund allocations for the provision of government services *without* being required to calculate revenue loss. In sum, the provisions of S. 3011 would help ensure that ARPA Recovery Fund investments are utilized to their full potential.

Thank you for your strong and unwavering support of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County, particularly as we continue the long and arduous process of responding to and recovering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,