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August XX, 2020

Florida Congressional Delegation

RE: **Chambers of Commerce Urge Your Support for 501(c)(6) Organizations in Continuing Small Business Recovery and Paycheck Protection Program Act**

Dear Members of Florida's Congressional Delegation:

As leaders of Florida's business community, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the undersigned local chambers of commerce thank you for the actions you've taken to help Florida's job creators keep as many workers employed as possible, while also working to ensure they don't go under during this time of crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As deliberations move forward on the next round of economic stimulus as a result of COVID-19, we encourage you to support the broad-based eligibility of 501(c)(6) organizations under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and ensure that it is included in any final negotiated Phase 4 COVID-19 legislation. 501(c)(6) organizations, which include chambers of commerce and other organizations that serve your local businesses, are included under both the current Senate and House proposals. We appreciate the leadership Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Greg Steube have demonstrated in putting forth legislation on 501(c)(6) inclusion that has garnered bipartisan support from both chambers. Support for your local chambers of commerce has been an example of the Florida delegation's bipartisan leadership in action.

The continued inclusion of these organizations' eligibility in the PPP program in any final negotiated legislation will not only allow us to protect jobs internally, but help protect the jobs created by the businesses we serve. This is important because:

- Trade associations and economic development organizations are essential services and needed to weather this economic storm so we can help our members stay in business and provide services to your constituents;
- Not-for-profit businesses of all sizes are seeking to improve their liquidity, so they can support their employees, and delay or suspend the remittance of all payroll taxes;
- Expanding and streamlining loan programs for as many businesses as possible experiencing revenue loss as a result of COVID-19 will allow those businesses to convert the loans to grants to the extent that they use the funds to pay their employees and/or other outstanding obligations such as rent or premiums; and
- Enabling the creation of credit facilities to provide loans and loan guarantees to all employers negatively impacted by COVID-19 means they can maintain operations, many of which are (or support) critical infrastructure services, and pay their employees.

The Florida Chamber and other organizations across Florida are doing their part, uniting hundreds of thousands of businesses and working with our governor and the state legislature to keep Floridians safe and the economy open. We're counting on you to set aside partisan politics and keep leading. We all stand ready to continue helping Florida businesses to survive this crisis and eventually thrive again.

In unity for Florida's future,

Securing Florida's Future



Mark Wilson
President and CEO

CC: Charles Caulkins, Chair, Board of Directors

AMPLIFY Clearwater
Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce
Bay County Chamber of Commerce
Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
Coral Springs Coconut Creek Regional Chamber of Commerce
DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce
Destin Chamber of Commerce
East Lake County Chamber of Commerce
East Orlando Chamber of Commerce
Estero Chamber of Commerce
Florida Association of Chamber Professionals
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce
Greater Naples Chamber
Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce Inc.
Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce
Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce
Gulf Breeze Area Chamber
Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce
Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce
Holly Hill Chamber of Commerce
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce
Key Largo Chamber of Commerce
Lady Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce & EDC
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce
Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce
Maitland Area Chamber of Commerce

Manatee Chamber of Commerce
Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce
Melbourne Regional Chamber
Miramar Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber of Commerce
Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce
Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership
Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce
Palm City Chamber of Commerce
Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce
Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce
Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Chamber
Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce
Tavares Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce
Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce
Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Uptown Chamber of Commerce
Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
West Orange Chamber of Commerce
Ybor City Chamber of Commerce
Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce