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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Tim Thomas
Federal Co-Chair
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20009-1068

Dear Chairman Thomas,

I was recently alerted that a number of economic and community development organizations across West Virginia have submitted funding requests to the Appalachian Regional Commission to develop the "COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund" to assist businesses in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing to express my support for these well-respected organizations; New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, Wyoming County Economic Development Authority, Natural Capital Investment Fund, Woodlands Community Lenders, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council, and the Center for Rural Health, and their requests for funding. I understand that, if approved, this funding will be specifically utilized to recapitalize existing revolving loan funds to quickly deploy flexible capital to businesses throughout West Virginia.

I appreciate your noting my interest and support of these requests and providing them full and fair reviews. I am proud to lend my support to this and other initiatives that will assist businesses in West Virginia stay solvent and retain jobs during these unprecedented and challenging times. If you have questions please contact Ryan Thorn in my Charleston office at 202-213-4365. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator