



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 31, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Trump,

I appreciate your leadership and diligent action to guide America's response to the COVID-19 health crisis. I need your help to ensure Montana's bars and taverns are not mistakenly excluded from much-needed federal assistance.

Congress has passed and you have signed into law measures to provide emergency economic relief for Americans who are taking responsible precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* was one of the broadest measures ever passed and signed into law. It includes expansions in unemployment, tax deferrals and credits for businesses, and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help businesses make payroll even if they are shut down. This program is meant to help the broadest number of businesses possible.

Montana taverns routinely use video gaming to supplement their operating revenue. Almost all of them have revenue from food, alcohol, and gaming. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued regulations for past loan programs that prevented businesses receiving one-third or more of their revenue from gaming from participating in their loan programs.

I have heard from many businesses in Montana about this problem. If this regulation were mistakenly applied to the PPP, against Congressional intent, many family-owned small businesses in Montana, which have been forced to close, will miss out on much-needed federal assistance at a critical time.

The PPP, in particular, is designed to help businesses pay workers. Montana bars and taverns are shut down by government order, and we need to help them if they are going to reopen after the public health threat of COVID-19 has passed.

I ask that you ensure the SBA does not apply this condition to Montana's small businesses which desperately need the support during this challenging time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued leadership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gianforte', with a stylized, overlapping flourish at the end.

Congressman Greg Gianforte
Montana