

# BIG CITY MAYORS

November 22, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The Texas Big City Mayors, a bipartisan coalition of mayors from Texas' most populous cities, urge Congress to swiftly adopt the bipartisan State, Local Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S. 3011) – co-sponsored by Senators John Cornyn (TX) and Alex Padilla (CA) – that would provide additional flexibility for the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) local recovery funds. This legislation was unanimously approved in the Senate last month, and we strongly support its passage so that the bill can be sent to the President's desk.

Since the enactment of ARPA, Texas cities have been working with our residents and government partners to allocate the \$350 billion provided for local assistance. We believe that this legislation would supplement and enhance the American Rescue Plan Act in three distinct ways.

First, it would allow municipalities to invest the greater of \$10 million or 30 percent of the total ARPA allocation to be used under a new, separate provision that further allows infrastructure-related activities authorized under federal surface transportation laws or Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. This new provision would also bolster the recently adopted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, furthering our nation's exponential recovery.

Second, it would allow cities to allocate up to \$10 million of ARPA funds for government services without using complex analyses to determine lost revenues, while allowing for a higher amount to be used if justified under the U.S. Department of Treasury's revenue loss calculator.

And third, it would allow local recovery funds to provide "emergency relief from natural disasters or the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs."

We appreciate your time and attention to these issues. Texas' cities have been on the front line of our nation's response to COVID-19, and providing our local governments with flexible resources will continue our efforts to realize more resilient and sustainable communities. As a united coalition of bipartisan mayors, we

respectfully ask you to adopt S. 3011, which will help achieve our shared goal of equitably recovering from this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Mayor Sylvester Turner  
City of Houston, Texas



Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
City of San Antonio, Texas



Mayor Eric Johnson  
City of Dallas, Texas



Mayor Steve Adler  
City of Austin, Texas



Mayor Mattie Parker  
City of Fort Worth, Texas



Mayor Oscar Leeser  
City of El Paso Texas



Mayor Jim Ross  
City of Arlington, Texas



Mayor Paulette Guajardo  
City of Corpus Christi, Texas



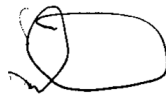
Mayor John Muns  
City of Plano, Texas



Mayor Pete Saenz  
City of Laredo, Texas



Mayor Ginger Nelson  
City of Amarillo, Texas



Mayor Joe Zimmerman  
City of Sugar Land, Texas

*Texas' Big City Mayors is a bipartisan coalition of mayors from Texas' most populous cities, representing over one third of the state's residents, that advocates for policies and initiatives that will strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for all Texans.*