

BOBBY L. RUSH

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Steven Terner Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220-0001

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, DC 20416-0011

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

As the United States continues to weather the ramifications of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the resulting illness (COVID-19), I have heard from small businesses in my district who are concerned about their financial stability if they are excluded from the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (PL 116-136).

In particular, these businesses have expressed grave concerns that the application of the current SBA affiliation rules may effectively exclude them from the program. That is because under these rules, businesses may be required to aggregate the employees of unrelated companies in which their investors are affiliated and count them in their employee count, pushing them above the employee size threshold.

One of the reasons I was proud to vote for the CARES Act was because it included financial relief to small businesses in my district and their employees. This bill was specifically designed to help small businesses remain financially viable and keep their staff employed during this unprecedented pandemic. Excluding small businesses with equity investors goes against this intent.

As such, I urge you to quickly and decisively clarify that these small businesses are eligible to compete for the loan program under the CARES Act. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can answer any questions or provide additional clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress