

May 5, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 17 signed associations, we thank you for your efforts related to covid-19 pandemic relief and to safely reopen the American economy. The Administration and Congress has taken swift measures to act on public health and economic needs amid the covid-19 pandemic. Critically among them is the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that helps provide needed capital to employers to prevent mass layoffs and continue safe and essential business operations.

However, a chaotic stream of PPP guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Internal Revenue Service has immensely confused and frustrated employers to strongly consider returning PPP loan funds, threatening the continued employment of many. Similarly, federal agencies have issued varying rules related to PPP loan funds. Some of these agencies have issued guidance only to turnaround an issue supplemental guidance that differs significantly.

As the deadline fast approaches for returning PPP funds, clarity surrounding PPP loan guidance is needed for employers to reevaluate their eligibility. **As such, we respectfully ask that you extend the deadline of May 7th until clear guidance is issued and businesses can make informed decisions whether or not they should return PPP funds.**

Businesses of all types, especially small businesses, are confronted with an unparalleled crisis that threatens them both financially as well as the health, safety, and welfare of themselves and employees. These businesses should not be burden or distracted with ambiguous regulations during this crisis which threaten criminal penalties should a business in good faith misinterpret its PPP eligibility. **Again, we respectfully ask that you extend the deadline of May 7th until clear guidance is issued and businesses can make informed decisions whether or not they should return PPP funds.**

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
Associated General Contractors of America
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Subcontractors Association
Geospatial Equipment & Technology Institute
Independent Electrical Contractors
International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants
National Association of Surety Bond Producers
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Society of Professional Surveyors
Professional Services Council
Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association

Subsurface Utility Engineering Association
Surety & Fidelity Association of America
The Design-Build Institute of America
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization
Women Construction Owners & Executives

CC:

House Committee on Small Business
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury
Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration
Internal Revenue Services