



March 5, 2021

The Honorable Susan Wild  
Longworth House Office Building  
Room 1027  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wild:

On behalf of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Public Policy Committee, we write to express our concerns with the COVID-19 relief package that is currently being considered in the Senate. Upon reviewing the legislation that passed in the House by a partisan vote, we firmly believe many provisions in the bill will have little to no impact on getting the virus under control. This means our members, who have been on the verge of financial ruin for nearly a year, will have to continue to operate under uncertain circumstances.

Congress should not be spending more money when \$1 trillion in aid allocated last year hasn't even been spent. By some estimates, roughly 91 percent of the \$1.9 trillion package is going towards spending that is completely unrelated to public health. This includes \$12 billion for spending on foreign aid, \$86 billion for pension plans, \$135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, just to name a few. With a price tag of \$1.9 trillion, we are concerned about the impact this amount of spending will have on the economy in the years ahead. We feel that a COVID-19 relief package is not an appropriate measure to include earmarks for projects that are important to a single member. Any legislative package should have the best interest of every American citizen in mind.

Prior to this legislation, Congress worked together to pass five bipartisan relief bills to address the COVID-19 crisis. Because of these bills, we have three vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the FDA to help protect Americans from the virus. However, this current legislation offers little funding for COVID-19 testing and vaccine distribution. In a time where it is critical to vaccinate Americans, this legislation falls short.

We appreciate you taking the time to hear our concerns about this bill. Our over 6,000 members are eager to get back to work and lift the economy to pre-COVID levels but need Congress to act on behalf of their interests. We humbly ask that you use your voice in the House to advocate for responsible policy that directly tackles the current public health crisis and leaves special interest projects out of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hayes".

John Hayes  
Chair  
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber  
(610) 628-1680

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lisicky".

Mary Lisicky  
Vice Chair  
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber  
(484) 695-2365