

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

DATE

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a constituent of your district, I write to you today to urge the immediate release of the remaining money set aside for Indian Country in the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). As you know, CRF payments are authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with \$8 billion allocated to Indian tribal governments and their tribally-owned entities. Presently, according to the August 2020 Treasury Statement of Accounts, \$534 million awaits disbursement to tribes.

My tribe, the Cherokee Nation, created a comprehensive and responsible blueprint for spending down our CRF allocation. Our innovative solutions to challenges we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as building the infrastructure to manufacture our own personal protective equipment (PPE) and addressing food security for our most vulnerable citizens, are instrumental in communities across the Cherokee Nation reservation. Tribes must have access to the funds they need to respond to the pandemic, and right now, tribes are unable to access more than half a billion dollars that was intended by Congress for tribal governments.

I have personally benefited from Cherokee Nation's COVID-19 Respond, Recover, and Rebuild plan through the Education Initiative, which provided \$550 for each of my children to assist with virtual technology and distance learning. Likewise, the \$400 COVID-19 relief stipend helped the elders in my community meet their needs and additional expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic.

In light of this, I hope you will consider my urgent request that Treasury release the remaining \$534 million allocated to Indian tribes in the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support for Indian Country.

Sincerely,

NAME