

PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION



April 8, 2020

Samantha Stone, President
Dave Price, Commissioner
Don Smith, Commissioner

Office of the Governor
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 26395

Dear Governor Jim Justice,

Everyone in the nation is looking to their government leaders to provide them the help they need to get through this very difficult time. You and your team are doing a wonderful job keeping us informed. To do our part we need your help.

It is vital that local governments get information from you as quickly as possible regarding the \$1.25 billion dollars the state of West Virginia has been allocated from the federal government. As you know county and municipal governments and political subdivisions like public service districts are not eligible for funding under the CARES ACT. So, this \$1.25 billion is where we must look for relief to navigate through these uncharted waters caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

To help you understand the urgent need to have this money in the hands of local entities, both large and small, here is just some of what all are facing:

- Increase in regional jail costs due to courts being closed to all but emergency hearings at least through May 2020.
- Decrease in revenue including tax dollars due to the closure of non-essential businesses and the exploding number of people in our county and across the state filing for unemployment.
 - Lack of revenue threatens the ability for counties, municipalities and public service districts to continue providing life sustaining services, like water, sewer and trash removal. It also threatens our ability, as government entities, to keep our people working.

Like us, you know this time of uncertainty could last well into May 2020 and perhaps into June 2020. We also know you want to help us and we want to work with you to continue to do our part. Today we implore you to move quickly to establish the requirements and regulations so the \$1.25 billion provided to West Virginia can be distributed without delay.

We applaud your quick actions to keep all people safe. Please continue your quick response and communication. We are anxiously waiting to learn just how and when the \$1.25 billion will be distributed.

Please help us help those who depend on the services we provide.

Respectfully submitted,



Samantha Stone, President
On Behalf of the Preston County Commission

cc: State Senator David Sypolt, State Senator Randy Smith, House of Delegates Terri Funk,
House of Delegates "Buck" Jennings, US Senator Joe Manchin, US Senator Shelley Capito
US Congressman David McKinley, Roberta Baylor, Preston County EDA

Preston County Courthouse Annex ▪ 106 West Main Street, Suite 202, Kingwood, West Virginia 26537
Phone (304)329.1805 ▪ Fax (304)329.3192 ▪ TDD (304)329.0652

www.prestoncountywv.org