

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2020

Administrator Jovita Carranza
Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 7900
Washington, D.C. 20416-2230

Dear Administrator Carranza:

We thank you for your continued work implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and for your support for small businesses in Connecticut and around the country as they seek to maintain operations. While we applaud the speed at which the Paycheck Protection Program was rolled out, we hope that you may address the concerns of our agricultural business constituents before additional funding is authorized for disbursement by Congress.

As you continue to develop guidance and regulations for the Paycheck Protection Program, we ask that you ensure additional self-employed filers, not just those with self-employment income who file a Form 1040, Schedule C, have access to the program. Specifically, we are concerned that the absence of guidance surrounding self-employed agricultural workers who file taxes using Schedule F has created additional challenges and uncertainty for both agricultural producers and their lenders. Due to this lack of guidance, we understand that regional SBA offices are offering different determinations as to who is eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program.

The intent of the Paycheck Protection Program through the CARES Act is to provide support and temporary relief to small businesses nationwide who face a myriad of challenges during the Coronavirus Pandemic. To ensure consistency among regional SBA offices and to address the needs of small businesses with unique tax filing situations, we urge you to issue guidance clarifying that both Schedule C and Schedule F taxpayers are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program. Self-employed agricultural producers remain a critical facet in local food supply chains and we must ensure they remain solvent by clarifying their eligibility for certain SBA programs.

Thank you for your continued effort to swiftly promulgate regulation and disburse emergency funding during this uncertain time. The SBA has been handed an incredible responsibility and we appreciate the urgency with which it is being handled.

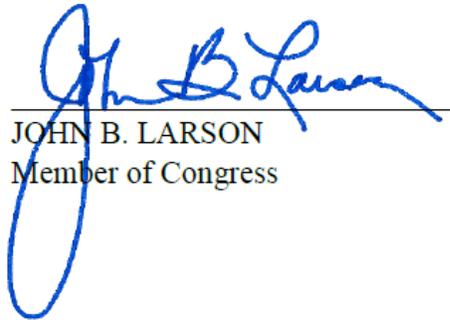
Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

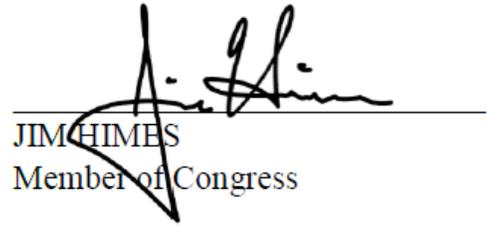

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