



NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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*DIRECTORS: Lawrence Bettencourt, Jonita Elder, Robin Enos, James Heisterkamp, William Kahrl
Fire Chief Ian Gow*

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support H.R. 535 and S. 91, the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Representative McClintock

The Newcastle Fire Protection District respectfully requests your support of H.R. 535 and S. 91, the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act, and its inclusion in any potential pandemic relief package. These bills would ensure that the special districts providing your constituents with essential services, such as fire protection, water, and healthcare, among many others, will not be excluded from future COVID-19 relief approved for state and local governments.

As a provider of fire protection and emergency medical services to over 6,400 constituents, we need access to federal relief resources that can help our district confront COVID-19 and overcome the pandemic's fiscal impacts. **Our employees are on the front-lines, and yet our district has yet to receive the funding that other government agencies, as well as businesses and non-profits, have received.**

Our district is just one of 2,000 across the state that, altogether, anticipate a **\$1.26 billion impact from COVID-19** through the end of Fiscal Year 2021

These bills are identical to S. 4308, which received bipartisan support in the 116th Congress. H.R. 535 and S. 91 would allow the vital services that communities rely upon to continue unhindered, while providing greater certainty that these governmental agencies will be able to retain their essential workers. Specifically, the legislation would establish a federal definition of "special district", allow special districts' access to future Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations, and designate special districts as "eligible issuers" of the Federal Reserve Board's Municipal Liquidity Facility.

We look forward to working with you to ensure all essential workers and the vulnerable communities they serve will receive equitable access to these important relief funds.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

William Kahrl, Board Chair, Newcastle Fire Protection District

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom, 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814
Cole Karr, Federal Advocacy Coordinator, California Special Districts Association
(advocacy@csda.net)