

United States Senate

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington DC 20416

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

Dear Administrator Carranza and Secretary Mnuchin:

As you work to implement guidance to lenders on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) recently authorized by Congress in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), we request that you abide by Congressional intent to assist all small businesses during the coronavirus crisis by including gaming entities as eligible businesses for PPP.

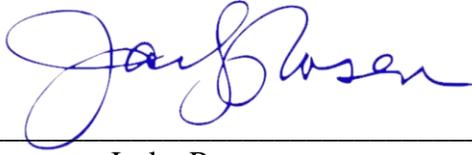
As you know, the CARES Act included a significant expansion of Small Business Administration (SBA) programs intended to assist all small businesses that meet the size-eligibility requirements in the legislation. As you implement and administer these programs, we urge you to do so in a manner that reflects Congress's intent that an expanded universe of legal businesses – including those in the gaming industry – are eligible to receive SBA assistance.

While there is no statutory mandate from Congress to exclude size-eligible gaming operations from receiving SBA assistance such as disaster loans, SBA regulations and standard operating procedures have previously precluded entities that receive more than one-third of their gross annual revenue from legal gambling activities from receiving these SBA loans.

The gaming industry is an important economic engine and job creator in our states and across the country, and has been among the sectors most severely impacted by the coronavirus outbreak due to mandated closure of facilities. These businesses employ thousands of our constituents and provide economic stability to many families in our communities. For these reasons, we ask that you provide an avenue for assistance to gaming entities under PPP, so that these vital businesses can remain in operation and keep people on payrolls during these unprecedented and dire times.

We appreciate your leadership during this extraordinarily difficult time for our nation's small businesses and for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator