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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2020

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The Honorable Jovita Carranza  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, S.W. Suite 7000  
Washington, DC 20024-3212

Dear Administrator Carranza:

I write in strong support of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's March 13, 2020 request for an economic injury declaration for the State of North Carolina as a result of national and statewide efforts to combat the Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). As confirmed COVID-19 cases continue to rise, state and local entities have taken measures to prepare for this widespread public health emergency. While these actions will help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians will experience significant economic hardship due to this unprecedented health crisis.

North Carolina is home to more than 833,000 small businesses that employ roughly 1.6 million individuals. Many small business owners, employees, and vendors are already experiencing economic hardship in the form of layoffs, lost wages, lost revenues, and difficulty paying their lease. In my district of Mecklenburg County, and its surrounding counties, I have heard from countless small business owners, across various industries including retail stores, restaurants, bars, hospitality businesses, who are devastated and in need of assistance.

Given the extent of the severe economic impacts of this pandemic, a federal disaster declaration is warranted. It is critically important to provide financial assistance to those who are struggling and will continue to experience losses throughout this crisis. An economic injury disaster declaration will allow North Carolina to get the resources it needs to provide relief during this public health emergency. I urge you to take this request under serious consideration and grant the request for this disaster declaration.

I respectfully request that you expedite your consideration of this request and keep me informed of any new developments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or Kichelle Webster on my staff at (202) 779-0187. I look forward to continuing to work with you to help residents weather the impacts of COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress (NC-12)