



March 29, 2020

The Honorable Bill Lee
Tennessee State Capitol
600 Dr. M.L.K. Jr Blvd
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee:

As you know, banks across Tennessee are working around the clock to assist borrowers as we work together through this health crisis. I am writing to give you an update as of this afternoon regarding the loans to small businesses that were outlined in the CARES Act signed last Friday by President Trump, and importantly, when banks expect direction from the Department of Treasury in order to deploy the funds provided by the legislation.

The CARES Act includes language that will allow all banks to participate in the SBA Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan program. These loans will be made available to businesses, including self-employed and independent contractors, non-profits (501 c3), and others with less than 500 employees.

Currently, with the announcement of the program preceding the structure, there is confusion surrounding the availability of these funds. Banks have not yet received guidance on how to make these loans available. I am hopeful to have guidance from the Treasury within the next 48 hours. According to statements by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on March 29, banks will be able to make these loans by Friday, April 3. However, this is uncertain until the final guidance is made available.

In the meantime, know that banks eagerly await final guidance from Treasury and stand ready to serve Tennessee's small businesses once it is received.

Thank you for your leadership, and please reach out to me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Colin Barrett

Cc: The Honorable Greg Gonzales
The Honorable Bob Rolfe