

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-990**

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan* | Governor of Guam  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero,

I write with urgency as a follow up to my previous letter dated March 13, 2020 regarding Guam's access to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program contained within the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The economic impact of this pandemic to our economy is worsening by the minute. As our government works to contain the spread of the virus on our island through community lock-down orders, closures of non-essential government entities, and calls for self-quarantine in homes, we must also address the devastating financial effect this has for the people of Guam.

Much anxiety and fear of our people have been elevated due to the uncertainty of their financial situations. Our downturned economy finds itself struggling to cope with increased layoffs and a reduction in spending. While many in our local financial services industry have graciously provided temporary relief to its consumers, an individual's ability to procure basic needs including food, rent, and household goods must be addressed. This situation is exacerbated by the mere fact that our government does not have an unemployment insurance program that would have mitigated this issue.

Governor, I once again urge you to begin the process with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to declare Guam a major disaster area considering the disastrous economic impact this pandemic has had, and will continue to have, on our island. This declaration will authorize the U.S. Department of Labor to work collaboratively with the government of Guam in setting up a temporary unemployment assistance program for those impacted by the coronavirus.

Additionally, our island's small businesses are suffering due to the depressed commercial activity. Congress has provided additional funding to the Small Business Administration to help address this rip in our nation's economic backbone. It has come to my attention that Guam has not yet been designated as an Economic Injury Disaster area qualified to avail of \$7 billion. In light of the global problem, the Trump Administration has eased criteria required for states and territories to qualify for disaster assistance programs. I cannot stress enough the importance of immediately submitting Guam's application for a disaster zone declaration so that our small businesses, incredibly vulnerable to economic imbalance, get the relief they deserve.

Attaining a major disaster declaration through the Stafford Act and a designation as an economic injury disaster area will be a major win for the entire island. You must act expeditiously so that our people may find comfort in knowing that their leaders are doing everything in their power to protect them from both environmental and economic harm. I stand ready to support you in ensuring that we achieve results for the people of Guam.

Respectfully,



Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress  
Guam