

**W. GREGORY STEUBE**  
17TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA  
JUDICIARY  
OVERSIGHT & REFORM  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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

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June 3, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe. St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Jose R. Oliva  
Speaker  
402 South Monroe Street  
420 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Bill Galvano  
President  
409 The Capitol  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Thank you for your contributions and leadership during the COVID-19 crisis and the crises associated with it. On behalf of the rural counties and small municipalities that I represent, I urge you to distribute the funds appropriated to Florida through the CARES Act on a per capita basis to counties and municipalities that did not receive direct Federal aid.

After the direct appropriation to local governments eligible for direct Federal aid, there is approximately \$1.27 billion left for distribution to local governments that were not eligible for direct Federal aid. Under the terms of the CARES Act and clarified by Treasury guidance, this money is up to our state to determine distribution. According to Treasury guidance from May 28, "Consistent with the needs of all local governments for funding to address the public health emergency, States should transfer funds to local governments with populations of 500,000 or less, using as a benchmark the per capita allocation formula that governs payments to larger local governments." Further, while the fund is not intended to be "revenue replacement," it may be used for payroll support for the local employees trying to work through the COVID crisis.

While we understand that the State of Florida may change this allocation, it has been over five weeks since the CARES Act was passed, and the local governments of rural counties and

municipalities have yet to receive their allotment. Our State should engage and communicate with our rural communities to ensure that an equitable distribution is found and sent out as soon as possible.

Our local governments are on the front lines in ensuring that the quality of life of our citizens are maintained through the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. Ensuring that local governments do not add to the unemployment roll and maintain the everyday service used by residents is key to ensuring continuity and enabling a return to normalcy as the State reopens. I trust that you will allow our local communities to effectively serve their role in this venture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Gregory Steube". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W." being particularly prominent.

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress