



State Representative Thomas Hall
53rd House District
State Representative D.J. Swearingen
89th House District

The Honorable Secretary Janet Yellen
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C., 20429

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write to you today as both concerned citizens and State Representatives within the great State of Ohio. Our issues surround provisions within the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2) as it seems uncertain whether or not Ohio townships may be eligible for state and local funding within this legislation.

The eligibility of townships within the bill has come into serious question. Specifically, a portion of the legislation that provides \$360 billion in COVID-19 recovery funds for states, local governments, territories, and Tribal governments. A cloud of uncertainty surrounds the definition of a “nonentitlement unit of local government” and whether or not Ohio’s townships would qualify for the funding under this language.

The issue with this is that cities and other municipalities across our state of similar sizes are, in fact, eligible — it seems sound and just that townships should be as well. We have over 1,300 townships in Ohio that work diligently to provide support and services including road maintenance, medical assistance, waste disposal, police and fire protection, and other duties that benefit communities and Ohio families.

It is critical that townships within Ohio are treated equitably and be deemed eligible for this relief. As the bill is called the “American Rescue Plan Act,” let’s not leave our American citizens that reside in townships hung out to dry. We truly thank you for the consideration and look forward to a resolution on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Hall", written in a cursive style.

Thomas Hall
State Representative 53rd House District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Swearingen", written in a cursive style.

D.J. Swearingen
State Representative 89th House District