

RON WYDEN
OREGON

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

221 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5244

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
403 3rd Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

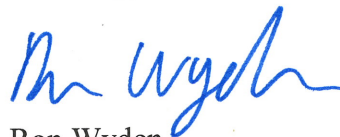
I write to urge the U.S. Small Business Administration, as it issues guidance and implements the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES; P.L. 116-136), to ensure that all cooperative businesses can fully participate in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

The intent of the Paycheck Protection Program is to provide the necessary funding to enable all businesses with 500 or fewer workers to keep workers on their payrolls. This is critical for the over 65,000 cooperative businesses in the United States that collectively generate more than \$75 billion in annual wages. Barring access to this critical financing would put these thousands of small businesses and their employees at risk and create an uneven playing field for cooperatives in relation to other types of businesses in their industry sectors.

Current regulations provide that cooperatives are an eligible legal form for purposes of SBA's 7(a) loan program (13 CFR § 121.105(b)). In addition, section 1102(b)(1) of the CARES Act makes clear that "in addition to small business concerns, to any business concern...shall be eligible to receive a covered loan" under PPP. When considering whether to include cooperatives as part of PPP, I urge you to exercise the broadest authority possible to ensure that employees of cooperatives are included in this critical program. The harsh economic consequences of COVID-19 do not discriminate by business structure, making it imperative that cooperative businesses are treated equally with other business structures and able to access the PPP loans.

I recognize the challenge that SBA faces in implementing PPP and disbursing funds at unprecedented rates. This is an unprecedented crisis for the United States and I stand ready to support the SBA to ensure cooperative businesses will receive equal access under the Paycheck Protection Program.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

911 NE 11TH AVENUE
SUITE 630
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 326-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE
SUITE 2020
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING
105 FIR ST
SUITE 201
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE
310 WEST 6TH ST
ROOM 118
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE
SUITE 107
BEND, OR 97701
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE
SUITE 285
SALEM, OR 97301
(503) 589-4555

[HTTP://WYDEN.SENATE.GOV](http://wyden.senate.gov)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER