

Open Work Session

Discussion on Draft Letter of Support for Federal Bill H.R. 5735 – State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure and Disaster Relief Act

October 4, 2022

Mr. Davis asked if there will be something similar in the Senate, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, it is her understanding it has already passed the Senate.

Mr. Hastings asked what the impetus was for this, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, they received an email from MACO asking for all counties to support this Bill.

Mr. Dodd asked if any of this comes back to the County, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, Ms. Oland is here to help assist with this discussion, but the Bill actually adds additional categories that they can use ARPA funding on. She said her understanding is that it is for natural disasters and infrastructure projects, and it also extends the time period in which they can use the ARPA funding from 2024 to 2026.

Ms. Pam Oland, Director of Finance, then came before Council and said the other piece is that it actually provides the Treasury Department funding to actually answer their questions, so, for her purposes, that is the most important part of this Bill. She said basically the Treasury Department says that, if they do not get additional funding when the County calls and asks them a question as to how they can utilize the funds, they say they cannot answer the question. She said the Treasury Department is required to be the one who manages this by the law, and if there is no funding for them to actually help answer questions, they are going to be operating blindly and only on the backend would they know if they have done it appropriately. She said the paragraph that talks about the flexibility and the Treasury having a critical partner and valuable resource is the paragraph that is actually most important to her as the Finance Director to be able to have her staff call somebody and get the questions answered.

Mr. Cannon asked if everybody is okay with sending the letter, to which there was a consensus.

There was no further discussion.



John T. Cannon, President, At-Large



Ernest F. Davis, Vice President, District 1



William R. McCain, At-Large



Nicole Acle, District 2




Larry W. Dodd, District 3



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator