



May 28, 2020

The Honorable James Lankford
315 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

We write on behalf of Main Street America and Oklahoma's strong network of 32 designated Main Street communities in appreciation of your leadership at this difficult time and to urge your ongoing support of Oklahoma's small businesses in recovering from the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, we request your support of the attached proposal which would significantly strengthen the recovery of small businesses by providing \$100M to a Main Street Community Recovery and Revitalization program.

For more than 30 years, Oklahoma's Main Street programs have provided crucial on-the-ground support for local businesses—attracting more than \$1.8 billion in private and public investment, creating 19,756 net new jobs and 5,743 net new businesses. Additionally, a cooperative spirit continues to drive local programs with 68,428 volunteer hours logged in 2019 alone, with a value of \$1,570,422.60 invested by Oklahoma Main Street supporters for the year. Main Street programs across the country share similar successes by connecting local businesses with the tools and support they need to thrive.

Oklahoma Main Street programs have been working hard to creatively assist business and property owners as well as stimulate support of the downtown economy during these ever-changing and challenging times. For example, Ponca City has acquired local funds to develop a marketplace website to put all their downtown businesses online. In Tulsa, Kendall Whittier raised over \$31,000 in private funds to assist businesses with their Rent Relief Grant Program, and Altus is boosting Main Street commerce by purchasing gift cards with proceeds from their Shop Local campaign t-shirt sales. The efforts of Oklahoma's Main Street programs – and Main Street programs nationwide – are sustaining businesses now and will hasten a return to economic vitality moving forward.

We urge your support of the attached proposal which would both stabilize and help expand state Main Street programs so that they can continue to support the recovery effort across the United States. We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our proposal with you and your staff.

Best Regards,

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President and CEO
Main Street America

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Ada Main Street
Ada, Oklahoma



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