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April 4, 2020

Hon. Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator
One Gateway Center, Suite 1100
Newark, New Jersey 07102

RE: Federal Funding for NJ from the COVID-19 Emergency Stimulus Package

Dear Senator Menendez,

I learned yesterday, via the joint press release from your and Senator Booker's offices, that Warren County has been omitted from the \$82,202,575 in federal funding awarded to New Jersey in the emergency stimulus package passed by Congress in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are one of only four NJ counties to have received no funds.

It is unacceptable that counties such as Atlantic, Cumberland, and Cape May, which all possess a fraction of the positive Covid-19 cases that Warren County has, are the recipients of federal aid while this county is not. This federal aid was evidently distributed on some basis other than need. That is flatly unacceptable during a pandemic. Warren (and Sussex) County residents are dying and significant percentages of our residents are hospitalized with life-threatening illness. It should be noted that our area hospitals and towns are being overrun with residents from eastern NJ and the New York metro area, who are fleeing to our rural area for medical treatment and to seek distance from the higher population centers. This makes the need for federal funds to support medical services here even more critical.

Warren County's first testing center is due to open next week—a center that is being funded solely by the County and will likely reach capacity in short order due to demand. The need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is just as dire here as in other counties. Both the testing center and the need for PPE could be funded with that federal aid.

Senator, I ask that you intercede on behalf of Warren County to get some of these federal funds allocated for Warren County residents immediately. It is the right thing to do, and the health and welfare of our residents depends on it.

Sincerely,

Christopher Stracco, Mayor, Frelinghuysen Township