Michigan Delegation Leads Efforts to Protect Main Street Businesses – 6-10-20 Q&A

How should members reach out to their legislators?

Don’t write a letter – letters get opened somewhere else and treated to ensure it doesn’t have ricin. It takes about two weeks for the letters to then reach your Legislator. The best method is call. Make sure you have the Bill #, and make sure to say the Bill is bipartisan. Personal outreach is the most important, especially for local officials.

I missed the very top of the program. Is there text for this Bill?

Dan Gilmartin, MML: What would the community's role be in this process? Would cities apply for funding and redistribute to local businesses?

Do you see as competitive $...we are small (Pentwater) and tend to lose out when competing with larger cities with more resources.

It is formulaic. The intent is to reach every community. This is a new program (like PPP). The PPP money was gone in 10 days. If there is a big demand, there’s no reason why they can’t go back and try to get more.

We are a resort town...the loss of revenue is because of COVID cases in other places - so although our #'s low we are affected by people not traveling.

I’m curious about that as well. We are a rural community with a small population that really depends on our small mom and pop businesses to keep our community alive. They are all struggling, and a few have already closed.

Why would rural areas be relying on Lansing to issue this money, and not coming directly from the Feds? We had all losses when we had no cases, our economic
downfall is because of how the State responded, not because of the virus. Lansing is already the WORST of all states in funneling money from the Capital to local governments.

This money is ONLY for local communities. The state cannot divert any of it. It is based on a formula. If you’d like the specific details, reach out to Rep. Kildee’s office. There is a provision in the Bill prohibiting state governments from clawing back the money.

If we have to rely on Lansing, then I am afraid that the rural communities will be left out!

Dan Gilmartin, MML: I believe the CDBG formulas specifically fund communities, so money allocated to each would be formula driven.

We have no cost affiliated with the virus--we just have all losses. So how is that calculated in the formula?

Dan Gilmartin, MML: Money is for businesses in the community that have been impacted. It is not reimbursement for COVID related expenses for local governments like the CARES Act was intended.