



**Steve Bullock**  
Governor of Montana  
Chair

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor of Maryland  
Vice Chair

**Scott D. Pattison**  
Executive Director and CEO

December 21, 2018

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room 232  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room 204  
Washington, D.C. 20510

President Trump, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

Our national system and state governments rely on a federal government that works. A federal shutdown is indicative of a government that is not working.

Governors compromise every day. We must work with partners in our legislatures and with stakeholders throughout our states. It is not a choice; it is a necessity to ensure the citizens we serve in our states – the same ones you represent at the national level – have access to the basic functions that allow them to lead good lives.

Governors are not able to entrench ourselves and enter stalemates that shut down our governments. States are better than that – and so too is the federal government.

If Congress and the Administration are unable to reach a funding deal, more than \$314 billion in federal funds for vital government services will stop flowing to federal agencies and states, and hundreds of thousands of federal employees who provide services our citizens rely upon will be furloughed.

Furthermore, critical programs for states – including the National Flood Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund – will lapse without congressional action to extend their expiring authorizations.

A federal government shutdown would not only delay workers’ paychecks and disrupt crucial programs and services, but also create uncertainty that would stunt economic growth.



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Governors believe in your ability to find a path out of this situation and ensure we have a federal government that works. We stand ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bullock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Steve Bullock  
Chair  
National Governors Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Larry Hogan  
Vice Chair  
National Governors Association