



**LARRY HOGAN**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

November 23, 2020

The Honorable Edward E. "Ted" Kaufman  
Office of the President-elect  
Suite 38038  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW.  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Senator Kaufman:

I write today to congratulate President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Harris, and your entire team as you make preparations for a smooth transition. As you begin to develop the incoming administration's first-year agenda, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight Maryland's top priorities at the federal level.


My first priority for the citizens of Maryland continues to be a Phase 4 COVID-19 relief package that includes robust and direct stabilization funding for state and local governments. States are already fighting an uphill battle to rebuild our economies and maintain essential services in education, health care, emergency operations, and public safety. Without federal assistance, we could be forced to consider furloughs and job cuts, halts to construction, reductions in government services, and other measures that will cause an increase in unemployment and further delay the economic recovery. It is also critical to include the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to address budget shortfalls and provide timely, flexible fiscal relief to states.

Additionally, I urge you to push for a significant infrastructure package, which will be even more critical as we attempt to spur our nation's recovery. As Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) for the term ending in August 2020, I led a year-long initiative focused on fixing America's crumbling infrastructure. Building a more efficient, innovative, smart, resilient and secure infrastructure future is a mission that governors from both sides of the aisle strongly support. I encourage you to consider our list of key recommendations to the federal government as you craft your initial policy proposals and am happy to discuss this issue further.

Finally, safeguarding the Chesapeake Bay will always be of critical importance to Maryland. The past two years, I led a successful bipartisan effort to protect federal funding for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, and in FY2020 we were able to secure a historic funding level of \$85 million. Maintaining this funding will allow us to sustain the progress we have made and meet our restoration goals at the 2025 deadline.

I look forward to continuing this dialogue and hope the Biden-Harris administration will work on a bipartisan basis with Congress to advance these policy items critical to Maryland. If you have additional questions, my Senior Advisor and Director of Federal Relations, Tiffany Waddell, can be reached at [tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov](mailto:tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan  
Governor

CC: Amb. Susan Rice  
Rep. Cedric Richmond  
Mayor Pete Buttigieg  
Sally Q. Yates  
Anita Dunn