

Governor Larry Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

January 7, 2021

Dear Governor Hogan,

We are small, family-owned businesses that contribute to the economy of the state of Maryland and provide essential goods and services to our communities along the Purple Line corridor in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Like other small businesses across our state, we continue to suffer from the on-going effects of the pandemic. To compound matters, our businesses have suffered from construction that has negatively affected our ability to conduct business. Additional construction delays caused by the dispute with the Purple Line Transit Partners has only extended the construction schedule and the impacts to businesses along the entire Purple Line corridor.

In the 2020 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly set aside \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2021 funds to help struggling businesses impacted by the Purple Line construction. Although these funds have been available since July 1, 2020, they remain unspent.

We do understand and appreciate that your administration has announced a business relief package that will withdraw \$250 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund this past November.

While we understand these funds are available to all businesses, we ask that your administration recognize the additional impacts that Purple Line construction is having on businesses across the Purple Line corridor and act, correspondingly, to supplement that assistance with the \$2 million set-aside. Using existing programs to distribute additional grants to the most hard-hit among the small businesses, your administration will be able to help save at least one hundred businesses that are otherwise in danger of being permanently lost. The undersigned businesses and small business-serving organizations respectfully call upon your administration to release these funds without any further delay.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you or one of your staff to provide more detail regarding our concerns. Members of the Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC) Small Business Action Team, including small business owners, will be able to provide specific examples on how construction and COVID-19 are affecting businesses along the Purple Line corridor. For more information about the PLCC Small Business Action Team, please contact Javier Rivas, Program Manager, Resilient Business Corridors at the Latino Economic Development Center at jrivas@ledcmetro.org and Ashanti Martinez, Research & Policy Analyst, at CASA de Maryland at ashantimartinez@wearecasa.org.