

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2022

Isabel Guzman  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 3rd St SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We write to ask that the Small Business Administration (SBA) award unobligated Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) funding immediately to eligible applicants and that it specifically prioritize any of the approximately seven thousand applicants that were awarded grants in 2021, but were not able to receive funding.

Last month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report titled *Restaurant Revitalization Fund: Opportunities Exist to Improve Oversight* that stated that as of as of June 2022, \$180 million of RRF funding was unobligated.<sup>1</sup> As you know, about 177,000 restaurants that applied to the program did not receive awards. While we understand the remainder of the funding will not reach every business that applied, it is imperative that the SBA distribute every dollar to help as many struggling restaurants as is feasible.

In addition to these actions, we are also urging that SBA take action to recover funds that have been awarded to ineligible applicants, were found to be accepted fraudulently, or could otherwise be returned. For example, the aforementioned GAO report states that SBA does not require recipients to report their operating status, despite the statute requiring that businesses that permanently close to return the unused funds to SBA.<sup>2</sup> SBA has itself identified potentially ineligible recipients, such as clubs and hotels that failed to meet statutory eligibility criteria. Money recovered from fraudulent and ineligible businesses can subsequently be used to help fund the many businesses who were unable to receive grants. We urge you to take action on this matter and provide us with detailed information on the amount of funding that may be recovered as well as SBA's progress in doing so.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. We appreciate the SBA's work in helping our nation's small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, and look forward to working with you to ensure every dollar can go towards an eligible food service business.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> GAO-22-105442: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105442.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



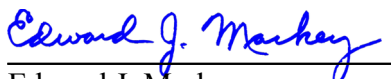
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



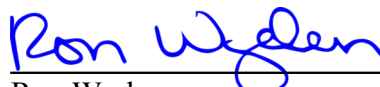
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



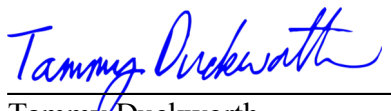
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



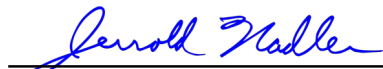
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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



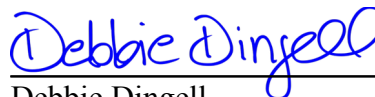
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



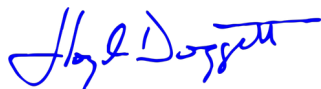
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



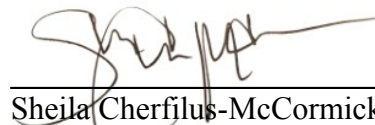
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



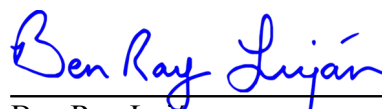
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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Michael F. Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress



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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



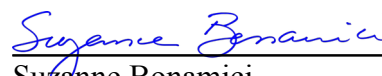
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



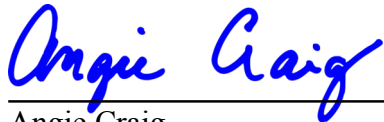
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



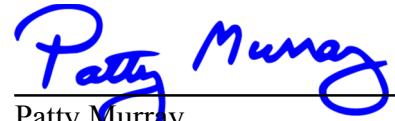
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



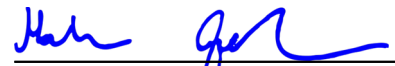
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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



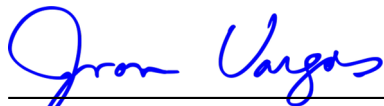
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



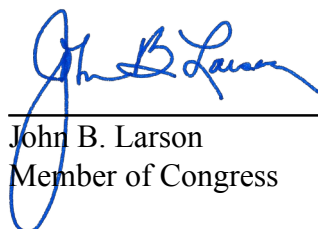
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress




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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress





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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator