



The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Trump, Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell:

We are writing today because we are deeply concerned about the lack of a comprehensive federal response to the COVID-19 crisis. We request that the Congress and President act with urgency to provide a multi-faceted response to what is now an interwoven health and economic crisis.

More than 25 percent of all professionally managed assets in the US, totaling more than \$12 trillion in 2018, include the consideration of environmental, social and governance factors. The signatories of this letter are investors or investor-related organizations who invest to produce returns for our clients, using ESG information alongside other financial information in the investment process. We are asset management companies, asset owners, data and research providers, financial advisors and community investing institutions.

Immediate action needs to be taken to ensure the safety of the American people, to provide a consistent and safe framework for how various parts of the economy reopen and to lay the foundation for a more just and sustainable future.

We call on the federal government to:

1. Institute a national mask mandate;
2. Plan for and provide funding for a nationwide rapid testing and contact tracing program;
3. Ensure there is widespread availability of PPE, including masks;
4. Strengthen the social safety net through the continued expansion of unemployment benefits, more stimulus money to hard-hit sectors, and a continued moratorium on evictions;
5. Assist communities most affected by the pandemic by increasing funding for the CDFI Fund, thus allowing community investing institutions, who are on the front lines of the crisis, to have more resources;
6. Bring the COVID-19 reproduction number below 1.

It is unacceptable that, more than 196,058 Americans have died, and more than six and a half million have tested positive for the virus, while many other countries have had far lower mortality rates. COVID-19 deaths in the US are 21 percent of deaths globally, although US citizens are only four percent of the global population.

While the number of infections and deaths are still growing, we remain without sufficient funding or plans for national testing and contact tracing. Ensuring the availability of testing sites with fast

turnaround times nationally, particularly in underserved areas and communities of color, including Black, Latino and Indigenous communities, is critical. Indeed, the benefits of all policy measures to respond and recover from the pandemic must reach all demographic groups and economic levels of society.

The GDP contracted at an annual rate of over 32 percent in the second quarter. The COVID-19 crisis has been a disaster for millions of workers who have lost their jobs, paychecks and healthcare – approximately 30 million Americans are currently collecting unemployment benefits. Additional stimulus measures are needed and should prevent, to the extent possible, further losses of jobs, incomes, homes and health care. An unprecedented number of businesses have been forced to scale back or close, some for good, leading to an economy that is deeply challenged and in an uncertain state.

The American people and American businesses need to be able to rely on a solid federal framework rather than the current 50 state, multiple county and city approach that is difficult to understand, let alone comply with, for companies whose operations span the country.

Employers are without necessary guidance about when it will be safe to start bringing employees back to the office and how employers should prepare office environments to ensure worker safety. Additionally, we have little data on the safety of public transportation or guidelines for social distancing and disinfection on buses and trains.

As investors who are deeply committed to advancing progress on environmental and social issues as part of the investment process, we ask of the federal government the same thing we ask of the companies we invest in: *Provide thoughtful leadership, address urgent problems with urgency and create a long term plan for addressing COVID-19 that the American people can have confidence in.*

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Woll, CEO  
US SIF

**Adasina Social Capital**  
San Francisco, CA

**As You Sow**  
Berkeley, CA

**Aspire Financial Group**  
Vestal, NY

**Center for Community Self-Help**  
Durham, NC

**Community Capital Management, Inc.**  
Weston, FL

**Community Reinvestment Fund, USA**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Congregation of St. Joseph**  
Wheeling, WV

**Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise**  
St. Louis, MO

**Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids**  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Etho Capital, LLC**  
Mendocino, CA

**Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds**  
Goshen, IN

**First Affirmative Financial Network**  
Colorado Springs, CO

**FOR Investment Partners**  
Traverse City, MI

**Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**  
La Crosse, WI

**Green America**  
Washington, DC

**Impact Investors**  
San Diego, CA

**Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility**  
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**JSA Sustainable Wealth Management**  
Rhinebeck, NY

**Maryknoll Sisters**  
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**Mercy Investment Services, Inc.**  
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**Monica E. Brown, ChFC**  
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**Natural Investments**  
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**Oxfam America**  
Boston, MA

**Parnassus Investments**  
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**Pax World Funds**  
Portsmouth, NH

**Riverwater Partners**  
Milwaukee, WI

**Robasciotti and Philipson**  
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**Sarah Cleveland Consulting**  
Portland, OR

**Seventh Generation Interfaith Inc.**  
Milwaukee, WI

**Signet Strategic Wealth Management**  
Westlake Village

**Sisters of Bon Secours USA**  
Marriottsville, MD

**Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York**  
Blauvelt, NY

**Sisters of St. Francis-Dubuque**  
Dubuque, IA

**Sisters of the Holy Names, U.S.-Ontarion Province**  
Lake Oswego, OR

**SRI Investing LLC**  
New York, NY

**Sustainalytics**  
New York, NY

**The College for Financial Planning**  
Centennial, CO

**The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge**  
Boston, MA

**Trillium Asset Management**  
Boston, MA

**Trinity Health**  
Livonia, MI

**Veris Wealth Partners**  
San Francisco, CA

**Vert Asset Management**  
Sausalito, CA