



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

March 10, 2021

Taylor Caswell
State of New Hampshire Governor's Office for Relief and Recovery
1 Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Caswell,

Over the past year, New Hampshire's economy has faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, through the dedicated work of our federal delegation, many local businesses and organizations received much-needed financial relief through a variety of federal expenditures, including programs derived from the \$1.25 billion in unrestricted CARES Act funds. These funds, which were part of the more than \$9 billion Congress directed to New Hampshire through the CARES Act, were an essential lifeline for many agencies and organizations -- but unfortunately, there is no way for the public to see how that money was spent.

We are concerned about the lack of transparency from the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR), which is refusing to make public the spending reports and disbursements for all agencies and private organizations that received CARES Act funds. We ask that you make the disbursements publicly available without delay.

Last year, Governor Sununu took sole authority to distribute the CARES Act funds through GOFERR. We repeatedly urged him to include the legislature in these decisions to provide oversight in this process, but he repeatedly refused, creating significant public concern around the lack of transparency from GOFERR.

For example, in December the Governor's office stated that the remaining CARES Act funds ranged from \$1 million, to \$30 million, but in a later report, the public discovered that there was nearly \$200 million that remained unspent. Later that month, you reported that there was almost no money left, but in the last meeting of the Legislative Advisory Board, you stated that resources were being put into a "few, final high-priority investments." Those investments have not been made public.

We've recently learned that you will not release the spending reports and disbursements for all agencies and private organizations given CARES Act funds. Granite Staters deserve to know how the CARES Act funds -- that were distributed by you and Governor Sununu -- have been spent, and we are asking that GOFERR act quickly to make these reports publicly available.

Sincerely,

Senator Donna Soucy

Senator Lou D'Allesandro

Representative Mary Jane Wallner

Representative Renny Cushing