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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

HOUSE ENERGY ACTION TEAM
CO-CHAIR

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Our nation has been ravaged by riots and looting inspired by the terrorist organization known as ANTIFA. At a time when our national debt approaches \$26 trillion, and families are still struggling because of governmental overreactions to the Wuhan Coronavirus pandemic, we simply cannot afford to spend tax dollars unwisely.

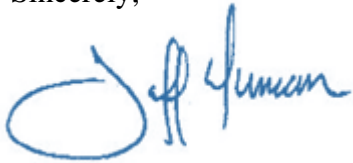
Congress has acted time and again to support families and small businesses during the pandemic, providing trillions of dollars to try to keep our economy going; but the rioters and looters chose instead to kick these small businesses while they were down, inflicting millions of dollars in damages. Meanwhile, the liberal Democrat-controlled cities where the rioting took place chose to fiddle while their cities burned, failing to call out their own police forces to protect public and private property. Many of these businesses were insured, but many of those insurance policies don't cover acts of domestic terrorism like the ones we have seen here.

There is a cardinal rule of parenting that applies here – you must not reward bad behavior. This is a manmade disaster, created by Marxist-inspired rioters and exacerbated by the willful negligence of local officials who failed to allow law enforcement to respond to the rioting. It is inherently unfair to tax South Carolinians to pay for the damage caused by the purposeful inattention of officials in other states.

Therefore, we demand that the Congress not spend a single dime to rebuild damage from recent riots in any COVID relief package, infrastructure package, end-of-year appropriations package, or any other spending bill that is brought before the House. Additionally, we reject the notion that any emergency appropriation is in any way appropriate for this situation. The cities who failed to protect their own citizenry, businesses, and property should be held directly and primarily responsible for the damages their own failures created.

Throwing billions of dollars towards our inner cities because of bad behavior of cities and citizens alike is the ultimate act of bad faith by the federal government. We urge you not to take that step.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Duncan". The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial "J" and a cursive "Duncan".

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress