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Our nation's leaders continue to determine next steps for coronavirus aid to impacted sectors. Today we bring you an update on the latest House bill, as well as highlights of PNWA's ongoing federal advocacy for our membership.

### HEROES Act

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi unveiled a massive coronavirus relief bill on Tuesday, the fifth proposed legislation related to the economic fallout from the pandemic. Though the House is expected to vote on the \$3 trillion proposal on Friday, Senate leadership and the White House have already signaled their opposition.

[H.R.6800](#), which spans more than 1,800 pages, is known as the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act. Here's our take on the bill:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – \$100 million for Fishery Disaster Assistance for tribal, subsistence, commercial, and charter fishery participants, in response to economic injury precipitated by the coronavirus.
- State Fiscal Relief – \$500 billion in funding to assist state governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.
- Local Fiscal Relief – \$375 billion in funding to assist local governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.
- Tribal Fiscal Relief – \$20 billion in funding to assist Tribal governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.
- Broadband – \$1.5 billion to close the homework gap by providing funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and connected devices for students and library patrons, and \$4 billion for emergency home connectivity needs.
- Small Businesses – \$10 billion in grants to small businesses that have suffered financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
- Federal Aviation Administration Operations – \$75 million for additional janitorial services at air traffic control towers and other FAA facilities; hazard pay, and overtime pay to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus; and a study on mitigating pathogens in airliner cabin air.
- Airport and Airway Trust Fund Relief – The combination of reduced air passenger traffic

and the suspension of certain aviation taxes through January 2021 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act will significantly reduce aviation-related excise tax revenue remitted to the AATF and may result in the AATF being unable to rely solely on aviation taxes to meet its obligations, such as grants to airports, air traffic control operations, and research in fiscal year 2020. Section 10901 ensures that the AATF can meet its obligations using the General Fund of the Treasury.

- Highways – \$15 billion for grants to support the ongoing work of State, Tribal, and Territorial Departments of Transportation and certain local governments to mitigate the effects of coronavirus including the salaries of staff and other administrative expenses.
- Transit Emergency Relief – \$15.75 billion for operating assistance grants to support the transit agencies that require significant additional assistance to maintain basic transit services. Of these amounts \$11.75 billion will be distributed by formula and \$4 billion will be available to any grantee or sub-recipient by application to the Secretary.

The rest of the bill is composed of technical corrections, pensions/benefits, or safety requirements for workers in each sector. There is no mention of any additional aid and no specific mention of ports.

### **PNWA Advocacy Update**

Ports in the Pacific Northwest are incredibly diverse, including large import and export gateways, inland barging hubs, and smaller coastal commercial and recreational fishing harbors. Each of these ports is a major economic contributor for their community, region and nation. PNWA is working with our Pacific Northwest Congressional delegation as well as our association partners as we advocate for relief funding for ALL ports, including a modest set-aside for small ports. PNWA has provided input on draft language to include in the bill via amendment. We continue to work with our port advocacy partners throughout the country to draw Congressional attention to providing port relief. Recently, PNWA staff assisted with drafting language for letters supporting direct aid to ports that circulated in the House and Senate, and PNWA staff also helped to secure signatures from Members of Congress on those letters. We will continue our leadership role on this issue and keep you informed. For more information, [please contact PNWA Government Relations Director Dena Horton](#).

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