July 1, 2020

The Honorable Tim Scott
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S.3614, the FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries Act

Dear Senator Scott:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to support S.3614, the FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries (FEED) Act. This legislation offers a creative solution to feed the most vulnerable populations in our midst while assisting restaurants in our communities stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this government mandated economic shutdown, restaurant owners across the nation are struggling to keep their businesses open. Restaurateurs faced the unenviable task of being limited to take out orders only. With the loosening of the stay at home restriction, restaurants have had to significantly downsize their indoor seating capacity in order to accommodate social distancing for dine-in patrons. The pre-pandemic business model of packing rooms with diners is no longer viable, at least for the near future.

Your bill offers a financial lifeline to the restaurant industry and a nutritional lifeline to individuals and families who are unable to make ends meet. Authorizing the federal government to pay 100 percent of the cost to states and localities so that they can partner with restaurants and nonprofits, including faith-based organizations and soup kitchens, to prepare meals for vulnerable populations is the right policy to implement during this health and economic crisis. With adequate funding, states and localities should be able to establish a network to coordinate food distribution and delivery. Preparing healthy meals for people in need, particularly seniors and children, is a program that should enlist bipartisan support in Congress.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills strongly supports S. 3614 and thanks you for your legislative initiative.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills