The Honorable (first name) (last name)

(Street)

(City) (State) (ZIP Code)

(date)

Dear (title) (last name),

As a member of the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), I urgently seek your support for federal funding to stabilize California's budget during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CAPS represents 4,400 State Scientists who perform essential work to protect public health, the environment, the agricultural food supply, and California's natural resources. I work on [fill in the blank].

Yet California – like every state and local government – confronts an enormous drain on its resources amidst an abrupt, unprecedented loss of revenue triggered by the worst public health crisis in 100 years and the worst economic downturn in 90 years.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has increased costs to address the public health and economic crisis, while at the same time dramatically decreasing available tax revenue. As a result, California Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed slashing funds for vital programs and state services to close an anticipated $54 billion budget gap. The pressure on the budget will not yield, as California's peak fire season is just a few weeks away.

This historic moment presents an epic test of effective governance that our nation must not fail. There is very little time for Congress to act, however, because California and many other states are finalizing their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

That's why I am asking respected leaders like you in the U.S. Congress to support a $1 Trillion federal investment to protect critical services that state and local governments provide for our communities.

We encourage you to put working families’ health, safety and financial security first by passing the HEROES Act or similar legislation (e.g., SMART Act).

Thank you for your support of public workers. If you have questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please call CAPS at (916) 441-2629 or email caps@capsscientists.org.

Respectfully,

(Name)

(Street)

(City) (State) (ZIP Code)

**Note to members**: Please also call your federal representatives in the U.S. Congress with the above message. Dial 844-967-2163 to be connected with your Senator and 202-224-3121 to be connected with your House member.