



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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December 31, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of
Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room 232
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room 204
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Trump, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 320,000 residents of Howard County, Maryland, including nearly 20,000 federal employees and 30,000 federally contracted employees, I encourage an end to the current federal government shutdown immediately. Approximately 11 percent of employed Howard County residents and their families are directly impacted by this shutdown and every day this shutdown continues, the economy of Howard County, one of the most prosperous jurisdictions in this nation, is impacted negatively.

Howard County is home to thousands of federal employees and contractors who work at Ft. Meade and the National Security Agency (NSA), and we are very proud of the role our county plays in protecting our nation's safety. However, this shutdown weakens our nation's security by lowering the morale of all federal employees and, once again, demonstrating to many skeptical Americans as well as allies and adversaries around the world that our federal government does not know how to properly operate as a governing body.

Howard County is one of this nation's preeminent local jurisdictions. This county has been represented by both Democrats and Republicans who have governed successfully through means of bipartisanship and compromise. This type of leadership has resulted in model communities featuring an excellent public school system, safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunities for our racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse population. Moderation, accommodation, and concession have proven to be successful within the Howard County government. I know it can also work just 30 miles down the road on Capitol Hill and in the White House.

I am supportive of the work of Howard County's congressional delegation during this current government shutdown. Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Representatives Cummings, Ruppertsberger, and Sarbanes are representing their Howard County constituents, and specifically our federal employees and contractors, with exemplary service and communication since the shutdown started. I join their calls to end this shutdown and not to begin 2019 with continued contention and chaos.

Our nation works best when we are unified under our shared mission to serve all citizens to the best of our ability as public servants; and to shine as a model of democracy, equality, prosperity, and peace to the world. Shutdowns of our federal government are counterproductive to these goals.

For the sake of Howard County's and our nation's economy and stability, I urge you to find compromises and solutions, and end this shutdown imminently.

Sincerely,



Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

CC: Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Representative Elijah Cummings
Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Representative Paul Sarbanes