

April 23, 2020

Acting Director Michael Rigas  
United States Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20415-1000

Dear Acting Director Rigas,

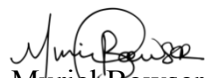
As executives of the three jurisdictions of the National Capital Region, we write to ask that you continue to implement broader telework policies for the federal workforce while we continue to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

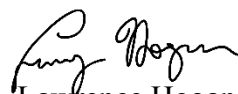
In his "Opening Up American Again" guidelines released last week, President Trump instructed employers to "encourage telework, whenever possible and feasible with business operations," in both Phases One and Two. As one of the largest employers of our region and across the nation, the federal government should similarly follow that guidance. While of course any essential employee should continue to report to work, we know that a continued federal telework policy will help save lives by allowing more of our region's 360,000 federal employees to work from home.


Each of us have made tough decisions about which employees in our governments are performing essential roles and must still report to work locations, and which staff can telework. This is a hard balancing act between ensuring the continuation of critical government functions and ensuring the safety and well-being of employees. But we know that the Trump Administration can similarly make these appropriate judgements, and we hope the federal telework posture is reflective of our own local operating statuses.

We encourage the Administration to help ensure the safety of the federal workforce and our residents as we work together to fight this pandemic. Failure to do so could lead to a rise in cases and delay our ability to re-open the region.

Sincerely,

  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

  
Lawrence Hogan  
Governor

  
Ralph Northam  
Governor