

## FW: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Alexandra Abrams <aabrams@cagw.org>

Tue 7/7/2020 11:13 AM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Hi Adam, my name is Alex Abrams, and I'm the Communications Director for CAGW. Tom forwarded me your email. Here is our response in regard to the PPP loan:

"Like millions of other nonprofit organizations across the United States facing the unprecedented economic impact of COVID-19, which affected them regardless of their purpose, CAGW applied and qualified for the PPP loan based on the statutory requirement that "[c]urrent economic uncertainty makes this loan request necessary to support the ongoing operations of the Applicant." In our 36-year history, we have never sought or accepted taxpayer money. But the unprecedented closing down of the U.S. economy to fight against the spread of COVID-19 had a significant impact on our funding sources and threatened our ability to provide continued employment to our staff. Had we laid off our staff they would have qualified for unemployment benefits at a significant cost to the taxpayers. We determined the better path was to apply for the federal funds and provide employment continuity to our employees. Please note that the assets in 2018 do not reflect the organization's current 2020 assets, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 economy and our efforts to maintain our employment levels, irrespective of the PPP loan."

**From:** Adam Andrzejewski <[Adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:Adam@openthebooks.com)>

**Date:** July 7, 2020 at 1:13:39 AM EDT

**To:** Tom Schatz <[tschatz@cagw.org](mailto:tschatz@cagw.org)>

**Cc:** Adam Andrzejewski <[Adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:Adam@openthebooks.com)>

**Subject:** IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

To whom it may concern,

My name is Adam Andrzejewski, a senior policy contributor at Forbes. We are working on a piece exploring the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) recipients. The deadline for comment is today, July 7th, 2020 -- as soon as possible. It's breaking news and if you miss our deadline, **we will do our best to update the piece after you respond.**

**In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification for your PPP loan transaction.** All lending numbers are via open records request of the U.S. Treasury and Small Business Administration (SBA).

Here is the section(s) where your entity is mentioned:

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However, many businesses legally gamed the system.

For example, Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) – a conservative Washington, D.C. oversight group founded to help President

Reagan cut pork – publishes the annual “Congressional Pig Book.” Yet, they received up to \$350,000 despite listing \$4.2 million in assets on their recent [IRS 990](#) (FY2018).

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Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes.

Sincerely,

Adam

**Adam Andrzejewski** (say: Angie-eff-ski)

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