JAMES E. CLYBURN CHAIRMAN MAXINE WATERS CAROLYN B. MALONEY NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ BILL FOSTER JAMIE RASKIN ANDY KIM **ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS** 

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

PHONE (202) 225-4400

https://coronavirus.house.gov

May 8, 2020

Mr. Jamie Lerner Chief Executive Officer Quantum Corporation 224 Airport Parkway, Suite 550 San Jose, California 95510

Dear Mr. Lerner:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis requests that Quantum Corporation immediately return the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan it obtained so that these funds may be used to support truly small businesses that are struggling to survive during the coronavirus crisis.

When Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act with broad bipartisan support, we intended to provide an invaluable lifeline for small businesses that otherwise might be forced to lay off employees or shut down entirely.<sup>1</sup> We did not intend for these funds to be used by large corporations that have a substantial investor base and access to capital markets.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, many large companies were able to utilize this program and obtained PPP loans that were intended for small businesses. Some of the companies returned these funds amid widespread public outrage.<sup>3</sup> However, other companies—including yours—still have not returned these funds.

STEVE SCALISE RANKING MEMBER JIM JORDAN BLAINE LUETKEMEYER JACKIE WALORSKI MARK E. GREEN, M.D.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, §§ 1102, 1106 (2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Small Business Administration, *Paycheck Protection Program Loans Frequently Asked Questions* (May 6, 2020) (online at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf) ("For example, it is unlikely that a public company with substantial market value and access to capital markets will be able to make the required certification in good faith, and such a company should be prepared to demonstrate to SBA, upon request, the basis for its certification.").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ruth's Chris to Repay Loan Amid Outcry Over Rescue Program, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 23, 2020) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/public-companies-have-to-repay-small-business-rescue-loans-11587670442) ("Returned funds will be recycled to make loans to additional businesses that qualify for aid under the program, a Treasury spokesman said."); *The NBA's Lakers, Worth \$4 Billion, Received a \$4.6 Million Small Business Loan from the Stimulus Program,* Associated Press (Apr. 28, 2020) (online at www.marketwatch.com/story/the-nbas-lakers-worth-over-4-billion-received-46-million-small-business-loan-from-stimulus-program-2020-04-28).

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This is an issue of significant bipartisan concern. As House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy recently stated during a nationally televised interview:

I was on the phone with the President and the Secretary Mnuchin yesterday, making sure that that's not gonna happen, that we will go after those big companies that cheat the system.<sup>4</sup>

Similarly, Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin called these actions "outrageous" and added that he never would have expected such abuses "in a million years."<sup>5</sup>

On April 16, 2020, your company filed a Form 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosing that it received a government-guaranteed PPP loan in the amount of \$10 million.<sup>6</sup> According to your securities filing, your company is "an industry leader in storing and managing video and video-like data" for video and rich media applications.<sup>7</sup> Your company has 800 employees and a market capitalization over \$150 million.<sup>8</sup>

Since your company is a public entity with a substantial investor base and access to capital markets, we ask that you return these funds immediately. Returning these funds will allow truly small businesses—which do *not* have access to alternative sources of capital—to obtain the emergency loans they need to avoid layoffs, stay in business, and weather the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus crisis.

We request that you inform us by May 11, 2020, of whether you will return these funds, including the specific amount being returned and the date by which the funds have been or will be returned.

If you choose not to return some or all of these funds, we request that you produce by May 15, 2020, all documents and communications (1) between your company and the Small Business Administration and the Department of the Treasury relating to the PPP loan; and (2) between your company and any financial institution relating to the PPP loan, including all applications for a PPP loan.

<sup>7</sup> Quantum Corporation, *Form 10-Q* (Jan. 29, 2020) (online at http://filings.irdirect.net/data/709283/000162828020000682/quantumq32010-q.pdf).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *America's Newsroom*, Fox News (Apr. 21, 2020) (online at http://video.foxnews.com/v/6151086586001/).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Treasury Secretary Mnuchin Says It Was 'Outrageous' for the LA Lakers to Take a Small Business Loan, CNBC (Apr. 28, 2020) (online at www.cnbc.com/2020/04/28/mnuchin-says-it-was-outrageous-for-the-lakers-other-such-businesse-to-take-small-business-loans.html).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Quantum Corporation, *Form 8-K* (Apr. 16, 2020) (online at www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/709283/000162828020005063/a8-kdefinitiveagreement.htm).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Some Not-So-Small Companies Are Getting Small-Business Loans Under PPP, National Public Radio (Apr. 21, 2020) (online at www.npr.org/2020/04/21/839716980/some-not-so-small-companies-are-getting-small-business-loans-under).

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Modeled after the Truman Committee during World War II, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis was established by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 23, 2020, pursuant to House Resolution 935, "to conduct a full and complete investigation" of the "efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and transparency of the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis," the nation's "preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis," and "any other issues related to the coronavirus crisis."

If you have any questions about this request, please contact our staff at (202) 225-4400.

Sincerely,

Rep. James E. Cly Chairman

Rep. Maxine Waters

Carolyn B. Maloney

Jamie Raskin

The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member cc: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis