



**National Association
of Bond Lawyers**

PHONE 202-503-3300 601 Thirteenth Street, NW
FAX 202-637-0217 Suite 800 South
www.nabl.org Washington, D.C. 20005

March 5, 2020

President

RICHARD J. MOORE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

President-Elect

**TERI M.
GUARNACCIA**
BALTIMORE, MD

Treasurer

**ANN D.
FILLINGHAM**
LANSING, MI

Secretary

JOSEPH E. SMITH
BIRMINGHAM, AL

Immediate Past

President
DEE P. WISOR
DENVER, CO

Directors:

M. JASON AKERS
NEW ORLEANS, LA

MICHAEL G. BAILEY
CHICAGO, IL

**VICTORIA N.
OZIMEK**
AUSTIN, TX

SARA DAVIS BUSS
PITTSBURGH, PA

STACEY C. LEWIS
SEATTLE, WA

CAROL J. MCCOOG
PORTLAND, OR

Chief Operating Officer

LINDA H. WYMAN
WASHINGTON, DC

*Director of Governmental
Affairs*

JESSICA R. GIROUX
WASHINGTON, DC

David J. Kautter
Assistant Secretary
Office of Tax Policy
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Krishna Vallabhaneni
Tax Legislative Counsel
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 3044
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Mr. Kautter and Mr. Vallabhaneni,

The National Association of Bond Lawyers (NABL) is a specialty bar association of approximately 2,500 lawyers. NABL exists to promote the integrity of the municipal bond market by advancing the understanding of and compliance with the law affecting public finance, including the related federal tax laws.

NABL members hail from every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Our members represent state and local government issuers, nonprofit institutions and other borrowers, along with banks, underwriters, and other parties in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by state and local governments. Our members and their firms are involved in a significant portion of the municipal financings in the U.S. every year.

State and local tax-exempt bonds are fundamental to building and maintaining this country's infrastructure. Approximately three-fourths of all public infrastructure in this country is financed by state and local governments through the issuance of state and local bonds, which are tax-exempt or otherwise tax-advantaged under the Internal Revenue Code. Approximately \$3.8 trillion of tax-advantaged state and local bonds are currently outstanding.

The federal income tax rules for tax-advantaged bonds are essential to the efficient functioning of these markets and are unique in many respects. In that light, the Office of Tax Legislative Counsel has a long history – going back before the Tax Reform Act of 1986 – of having on staff an attorney with specific expertise in the federal tax issues relating to state and local bonds. Most recently, that role was filled by John Cross, who had had a proven history of working productively to consider the needs of state and local governments and the feedback from public finance industry groups such as NABL, while furthering the tax policies of the federal government.

As you know, Mr. Cross retired as associate tax legislative counsel at the Office of Tax Policy in November 2019. In the wake of his departure, NABL encourages the Office of Tax Legislative Counsel to appoint a full-time replacement

attorney who will focus on the unique federal tax rules relating to tax-advantaged bonds.

The Office of Tax Policy continuing to have a tax attorney with relevant expertise responsible for tax-advantaged bond topics will benefit the federal government by ensuring that needed tax guidance adequately protects the federal government's interests and new legislation is implemented appropriately through published guidance. Having an attorney with the expertise to efficiently address the issues affecting the municipal market will also benefit state and local governments and other participants in the municipal bond industry.

If NABL can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Giroux, Director of Governmental Affairs, in our Washington DC office, at (202) 503-3290 or at jgiroux@nabl.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard J. Moore
President, National Association of Bond Lawyers