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**Brett Wesner**  
Wesner Publications  
Cordell, OK

### *Vice Chair*

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The Hillsboro Journal-New  
Hillsboro, IL

### *Treasurer*

**Jeff Mayo**  
Cookson Hills Publishing  
Sallisaw, OK

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**Matt Adelman**  
Douglas Budget  
Douglas, WY

**Matthew Paxton**  
The News-Gazette Corporation  
Lexington, VA

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R Biden  
President-Elect  
c/o Biden-Harris Transition Team  
Wilmington, DE  
DIGITAL DELIVERY

And Co-Chairs of the Biden-Harris Transition Team

Anita Dunn -Washington, DC  
Michelle Lujan Grisham -Albuquerque, NM  
The Honorable Ted Kaufman-Wilmington, DE  
Cindy McCain-Phoenix, AZ  
The Honorable Cedric Richmond-Baton Rouge, LA  
Jeff Zients-Washington, DC

Dear President-Elect Biden and Co-Chairs:

Congratulations to you and your team on your successful campaign to be our 46<sup>th</sup> President! National Newspaper Association, representing small-market newspapers in all 50 states, looks forward to working with your administration.

It is time to defeat the Fake News fears in America. Community newspapers need your support now to restore public trust in factual information.

Mr. Vice President, you and your team have long been familiar with NNA's community newspapers and have graciously provided us an audience many times. We are writing to say we are still here. We covered local elections, provided essential information during the pandemic shutdowns and recoveries and kept our communities in touch with solid news and information.

We are publishing in print and digitally. Our print newspapers, however, are critical to our financial health. We need your help to continue our journalism missions.

1. We need a mandate from your administration to **direct more federal advertising into local newspapers**. Agencies often overlook our markets in favor of social media and larger outlets. But Susquehanna Polling and Research tells us that our newspapers are the most trusted channels in our towns.
2. We need **printed public notices**, backed by newspapers' digital distribution, when agencies need to reach the public. Notices on agency websites alone are dense, obscure and inadequate. We would like your agency teams to prepare early in 2021 to meet with an NNA delegation to so we can explain how best to use our organizations for more successful public notice.



3. Our newspapers are delivered primarily by mail. The US Postal Service has suffered a decline in public trust and faces insolvency. We need **postal reform with public funding** for the core costs of universal service early in 2021.

Our mission cuts across many agencies: commerce, justice, small business and information policy. We would like to acquaint your teams with our many journalism award winners. Keeping your security in mind, we address this letter to you digitally, but hope we can be provided a hard-copy address so we can send you some of our most excellent newspapers. We want you to see these issues in their full-color, carefully laid pages because we know many in Washington confuse us with major metro newspapers and think we are mostly digital or in decline.

It is the coronavirus that is crippling us right now. In normal times, we speak with a big voice in many of the small towns that feel forgotten by Washington. This is an opportunity for your administration to begin to heal this divide. Please get to know us and let us help to conquer misinformation.

Thank you for your attention and Godspeed as you prepare to meet our nation's challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Wesner".

Brett Wesner  
Chair, National Newspaper Association and  
Publisher, Wesner Publications, Cordell, OK