(Return Address)

(Date)

The Honorable [INSERT FULL NAME OF SENATOR]

[INSERT ROOM NUMBER] Senate Office Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [INSERT LAST NAME]

I am writing to urge you to oppose efforts to attach S. 4295, the Financial Data Transparency Act of 2022, to the National Defense Authorization Act. In particular, Section 203 of S. 4295 would require the MSRB to establish uniform data standards for local government. The proposed standardization would result in an unfunded mandate and pose a significant burden to many local governments and public entities [SUCH AS YOUR JURISDICTION] in [INSERT STATE] and across the country, because it would require identical financial reporting classifications across all types of local governments.

There are a multitude of types of public entities that would be subject to this change in reporting including: states, cities, counties, water systems, hospitals, public power, etc. Forcing these very different entities to use a single, standardized template could cause many local governments to lose valuable, detailed information for constituents and actually reduce transparency by eliminating data specific to those entities. Additionally, transitioning to this reporting scheme would require extensive staff time and costly upgrades to financial systems to accommodate the rules.

I urge you to oppose inclusion of Section 203 in efforts moving forward. Should you have further questions about the potential impact of this bill, I encourage you to reach out to myself or other local government finance professionals who can discuss further the challenges of implementing the legislation.

Respectfully,

[INSERT YOUR NAME]