

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

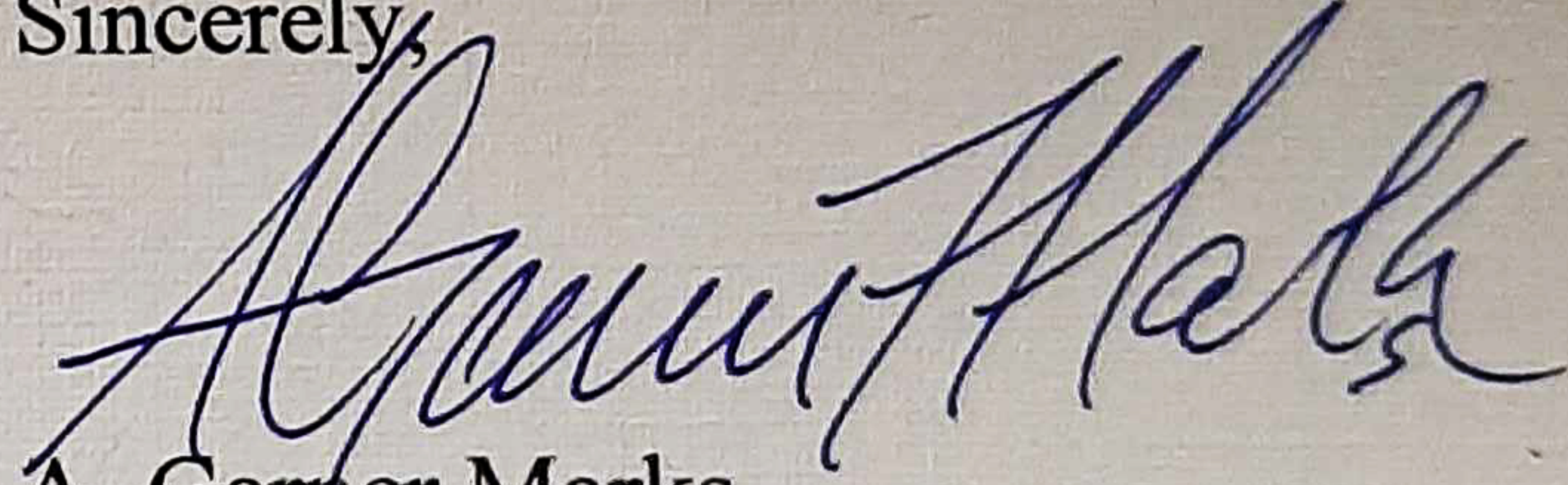
To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your letter concerning the issue of debt collection efforts for funds to be distributed to West Virginia citizens under the federal CARES Act.

It is generally outside the scope of the Governor's emergency powers to suspend debt collection efforts in the manner you have requested. Notwithstanding that fact, we recognize that a number of states have taken steps to limit certain debt collection efforts during their states of emergency. Notably, the state of Texas, by and through the Supreme Court of Texas, suspended or delayed the seizure or garnishment of certain consumer debt.

We have reached out to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia to discuss their legal authority to provide certain relief to the citizens of this state and it is my understanding that they are currently reviewing this matter. We will continue to monitor this issue in consultation with the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, and encourage you to reach out to them, as well.

Sincerely,



A. Garner Marks

Deputy General Counsel