

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee  
416 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

Those of us who have signed this letter are among the Snohomish County elected officials that were also signatories to a letter sent to you dated April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. As we did then, we want to thank you again now for your leadership during this unprecedented time in our state's history. We are safer and in a better position to begin to re-open our economy today because of your early and decisive actions. Your job is certainly not an easy one and we respect that you are trying to balance both a health and an economic crisis at the same time with decisions made in either area potentially creating negative impacts on the other.

We thank you also for the detailed plan of your phased re-opening of our economy provided last Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We had asked for this in our previous letter and this phased approach does give our residents and businesses a roadmap for planning purposes.

In conversations within our respective constituencies over the past few days, it has become clear that our small and medium size businesses in particular are very concerned about the timelines presented between phases. Of particular concern, is the fact that we will in all likelihood not enter phase 2 of this plan until June 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest. For many of these businesses in our respective communities, it was all they could do to hold on after the first extension of the Stay Home/Stay Healthy restrictions through May 5<sup>th</sup>. They are now faced with trying to figure out a way to survive another 4 weeks at minimum beyond that date.

As you are very well aware, Snohomish County residents and businesses have sacrificed much over the past several weeks to flatten the curve of new COVID-19 cases here. New reported cases of COVID-19 in our county peaked over a month ago and have dropped significantly since then. In light of this, we would respectfully ask that you consider easing the current restrictions on our small and medium size businesses during phase 1. Some thoughts on how this might be accomplished safely include:

- A limit on the number of employees per square feet allowed in a place of business.
- A limit on the amount of customers in the business at any one time
- PPE requirements of both the customer and business employee if they are within six feet at any given time

It is often the smaller businesses that feel they have a limited voice due to the fact that individually they have less of an impact than the larger businesses. Collectively, however, they have a very significant impact and are in multiple ways better positioned to re-open more safely than some entities that are open today.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to assist in any way we can in order to get our local businesses back to work in both a safe and timely manner.

Respectfully,



Mayor Jon Nehring, Marysville



Mayor Brett Gailey, Lake Stevens



Mayor Matthew Hartman, Granite Falls



Mayor Bob Colinas, Brier



Mayor John Kartak, Snohomish



Mayor Russell Wiita, Sultan



County Council, Sam Low



Mayor Leonard Kelley, Stanwood



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, Monroe



County Council, Nate Nehring



Mayor Norm Johnson, Index



Mayor Carla Nichols, Woodway