



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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April 21, 2020

To the Honorable Governor Newsom:

We thank you for your guidance through this unprecedented time of dealing with COVID-19. As we move towards the anticipated day of lifting or extending our Shelter in Place (SIP) Order, we respectfully request that you place trust in the counties, their Public Health Officers and their elected officials. Not all counties are being impacted the same, yet we believe that all counties are as concerned about COVID-19 as anyone else.

We respectfully request that you remove the state SIP order and provide Public Health Benchmark standards so that each county can open up their SIP orders and make their own cautious decision on how to re-activate businesses which are truly struggling. We need you to trust that we have the people's health both physically and economically in mind. We understand that opening up the economy too quickly can create a surge in physical health issues, but we also understand that prioritizing physical health only can have detrimental economic impacts on our communities as well.

With the issues of the Paycheck Protection Program where many of our businesses were denied or failed to be approved for financial support, this only exacerbates the economic issue and the morale of our business owners as well as their employees. By formulating a plan with each business on how best to open using public health guidelines, we can bring back the independence that our businesses need in order to successfully bounce back.

A California wide action is difficult to take because what will work for the County of Lake may not work for Los Angeles County or other metropolitan areas and vice versa what works for Los Angeles County will not necessarily work for Lake County.

Again, we respectfully request that you give all counties Public Health Benchmark standards as we move forward and give us the ability to choose how we navigate the reactivation of our economy while still ensuring the protection of our vulnerable populations. We request that you do this before our current SIP order expires on May 3, 2020, and no later than this as another month of bills are stacking up. While many bills have been postponed, they will still need to be paid which means we can anticipate an added potential economic hardship for paying multiple months of rent/mortgage, taxes, utility payments, etc., This may add an exacerbated slump to an already beaten down economy.

We can do this, especially here in Lake County, and we hope that you will provide us the ability to make our own decisions. We thank you for your leadership in protecting us from a much larger issue, such as the one New York is dealing with, but now is the time for local jurisdictions to take control. We have learned how to flatten the curve together, and now we can use this knowledge to move forward while protecting both the health of our residents as well as the health of our economy.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Moke Simon, Chair