



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368  
FAX (707) 263-2207

*Moke Simon – District 1*

*Bruno Sabatier – District 2*

*Eddie Crandell – District 3*

*Tina Scott – District 4*

*Rob Brown – District 5*

November 17, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento CA 95814

To the Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom:

COVID-19 has been a struggle for all. It has impacted every foundational fabric of our communities. Our schools, our elderly, our medically fragile, and our businesses have all been impacted. Here in Lake County we have worked hard to protect our vulnerable, provide assistance to our businesses, and continue to track the virus and manage the pandemic to the best of our abilities.

We have managed to do this through all the different mandates from the state. We shut down entirely in mid-late March. We submitted our local variance when the opportunity presented itself so we could move into reopening our communities, including our schools. We managed again to figure out how to fit within the parameters of the new tiered system, including the revision with the small population counties. However, while managing to keep our spread of the virus to a manageable status for our county, our businesses have had difficulties with some still being restricted and others still unable to open due to the parameters that have been set within the tiered system.

In our recent conversations, we've been discussing on how to save the businesses, mainly our hospitality businesses, from the oncoming winter months and the increasingly enormous impact to staff, owners, and the domino economic effect this has in our communities including the collection of taxes at the county level for the increased services that are desperately needed. This includes a 500% increase in calls for substance use disorders and 129% increase in mental health calls. The survival of these businesses, while ensuring the safety of staff and customers, is important for the short and long term of our county as the need for our services has not subsided.

Dr. Ghaly, in yesterday's report stated that we should stay local and related that travelling 2-3 hours was within your local area. This means that we have state approval for folks from purple areas, which we are surrounded by, to come and visit our county regularly. We've been dealing with this constantly, however, now the state has shared approval of this occurring.

This brings me to yesterday's new unveiling of the changes to the tiered process. Our restricted businesses are struggling enough as it is. Now, to be able to go from 50% capacity to outdoor only has the potential to create a complete loss as these businesses reminiscent of PSPS. For example, restaurants order by the week to ensure their food is fresh for their customers, yet their activity for the following may change drastically with these new changes. To allow the skipping of tiers and to make the changes occur so abruptly while advertising that it is appropriate to travel 2-3 hours means that our potential impact to these businesses could swing abruptly from week to week if not sometimes in the middle of the week. This makes these businesses even less likely to survive the winter season.

The state discussions with CSAC that brought forth the new small county criteria was due to us being impacted greatly by a single outbreak such as the one that recently occurred in our county jail. These numbers are magnified when compared to a population of 100,000 which makes us moving through the tier system on a week to week basis even more likely. We should be looking for stability with safety guidelines for our communities. This new approach creates a vastly unstable environment for our businesses to try and survive.

Please reconsider this new change and review how it is that we can support our businesses, while utilizing every safety precaution to ensure the safety of our communities and to reduce the risk of an economic collapse.

Respectfully submitted,

## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

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Moke Simon, Chair  
District 1 Supervisor

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Bruno Sabatier  
District 2 Supervisor

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E.J. Crandell  
District 3 Supervisor

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Tina Scott  
District 4 Supervisor

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Rob Brown  
District 5 Supervisor