



TOWN OF GIBRALTAR

April 21, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
115 E Capitol Dr # 1
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

The Town Board of the Town of Gibraltar is calling on the Governor to immediately come up with a set of plans that will be looked at to reopen our state and our economy. This plan needs to take a balanced approach between science, health, and the economy. The move to prolong the closure of our state for over another month without working with the legislature is not only a huge blow to Wisconsin's workers, but may well be outside of the law.

Most of Door County is sustained by tourism in some way. The tourist season is short, six months at best, and that short season has to generate enough revenue to pay the bills the other six months. Many businesses use line-of-credit loans to survive during the off season, paying off the lines of credit with the income generated during the summer months. Business owners and employees who have been laid off are struggling to pay their bills right now and need a path to reopening. Some of the spring festivals have already been canceled. Additionally, one of the largest draws to Door County, Peninsula Players, has canceled their summer season. In a neighboring town, a large resort and golf course also have decided to close for the season amid uncertainty. Those jobs are now lost and people have lost their employment. This has other Door County employees wondering if they will have jobs to go back to as this uncertainty continues and more businesses decide whether they can salvage part of the season and still recover. Extending the emergency order versus a gradual return to some remote type of normalcy only took more hope away.

Though this new order added some small flexibility to a very small fraction of businesses, it failed to help many others, many of which are the true small businesses. Dine-in restaurants cannot continue to survive on carry-out and hotels need to start filling beds. All businesses need to re-open and need to start bringing their employees back to work.

From a town stand point, this is going to have a severe impact on our revenues, room tax being a big one. The town is already preparing to make cuts to budgeted items knowing we have already lost two months of revenue. Unless the state is going to make up for that loss, the town will not recover from that. Even then, in the end, it all falls on the taxpayers. If they don't have jobs, it can never be made up.


In closing, we understand these are tough decisions that have to be made but there needs to be balance. We request that you modify your order and come up with a plan to reopen all businesses with reasonable safety and

social distancing guidelines in place just like essential businesses have been doing. Responsibility needs to be given back to the people so they can try to start recovering from this ordeal and not lose any hope they have left.

Sincerely,



Steve Sohas, Chairman

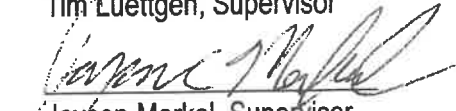


Bill Johnson, Supervisor



Brian Merkel, Supervisor

Tim Luetgen, Supervisor



Jayson Merkel, Supervisor



Attest: Beth Hagen, Clerk

CC:
Representative Joel Kitchens
Senator André Jacque