

California State Senate

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April 30, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write today to follow up on Senator Grove's previous request to modify your executive order and allow local government's flexibility in reopening the economies of communities with low levels of COVID-19 activity.

Tuesday you announced an update to California's Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience which outlined a statewide phased plan on how you envision reopening California's economy. Instead of a statewide one-size-fits-all approach towards reopening, we request that your plan be augmented to empower local health officers to exercise their judgement and discretion to utilize science and local health data to move their communities through the phases in a way that works for their communities, while still protecting public health.

While California's statewide Stay-At-Home order has helped to dramatically flatten the curve in many urban communities, it is creating burdens for families, job creators, and local governments, especially those in areas with minimal or no COVID-19 activity. Many communities in California, such as Taft, in Kern County have been closely monitoring local data which shows a continual reduction of infections. Unfortunately, the negative economic impacts to Taft caused by the Stay-At-Home order are growing at an alarming rate, and only getting worse. It is estimated that Taft's economy may shrink by up to 40%. This loss of funding leaves residents, businesses owners, and city officials uncertain if they will ever recover.

In the past many Governors have stressed the importance of subsidiarity when addressing challenging issues. It is in that vein that we hope that you will seriously consider empowering county public health officers to decide when their communities are ready to move through the

phases outlined in your Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience. As always, we appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you in reopening our local economies.

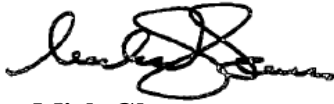
Sincerely,



Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader
16th Senate District



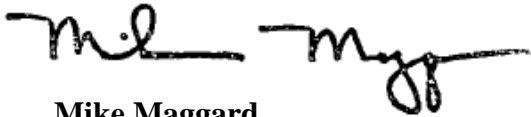
Dave Noerr
Taft Mayor



Mick Gleason
Kern County Supervisor, District 1



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Kern County Supervisor, District 2



Mike Maggard
Kern County Supervisor, District 3



David Couch
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