



**GRANT COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF THE**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
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EPHRATA WA 98823  
(509) 754-2011

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Honorable Governor Inslee:

We are living in unprecedented times. The effects of COVID-19 could not have been predicted, and we recognize the strong early response efforts you initiated in light of unknown consequences and dire forecasts provided by health experts. However, we are now seeing the unintended effects of these measures that lack any solid termination date.

Washington State Commissioners are, and have been, on the front lines working with community members. People from every corner of the state are suffering. Businesses are closing, unemployment checks are not being received - and our citizens need help now.

As Governor for our State, you declared an emergency on February 29, 2020. We have been patient, but this can only last so long. We now demand answers and solutions to restore our crumbling economy as we watch the people in our communities lose everything they have worked for.

County Commissioners have united to express our concerns and how they affect the areas we represent. You, just as we are, are accountable to the very people who elected us under Article 1, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution:

*All political power is inherent in the people, and the governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights.*

It is a disgrace to the State and to the Governor's office that you have chosen to ignore the people. Instead, you have decided to spend your time building the "Western Regional Pact". Washingtonians must come first. As Commissioners, we question how you had the time and resources to work with Governors from California, Oregon, Colorado, and Nevada, yet have failed to communicate with local leaders in this State who represent the very people you were elected to serve.

Richard Stevens  
District 1

Tom Taylor  
District 2

Cindy Carter  
District 3

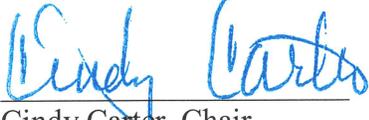
We collectively urge you to change the narrative immediately. Show us, and the people who have empowered us to serve them, that you not only hear these issues but are actively working to rectify this situation. You, under the emergency powers entrusted to the Governor, have the ability to turn this around. Every day, Commissioners must look the very people in the eye who elected us and tell them we are trying to change this. We serve the people, and we are tirelessly working to make a difference in their lives. We all need your help.

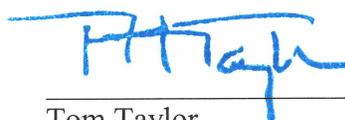
Allow us to take back local control. COVID-19 is real and it is serious, but it effects every county differently. We strongly hope you will work with us and allow us to create plans within our individual counties that address our individual county needs.

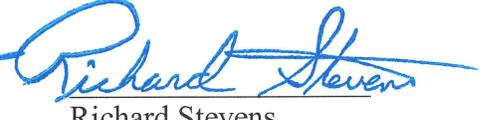
We stand ready to assist you in getting all of Washington back on the road to economic recovery.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Cindy Carter, Chair

  
Tom Taylor

  
Richard Stevens

:bjv

Cc: County Commissioners of Washington State