



Borough of Seaside Park, New Jersey
The Family Resort



Township of Toms River NJ
Est. 1767



June 5, 2020

Honorable Philip Murphy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Governor Murphy;

The Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, has had a devastating effect on the planet, our country and the state of New Jersey. Unprecedented shelter in place and stay at home orders have been issued to combat the spread of the virus. While the impact and effectiveness of those measures in regards to health are being seen due to the drop in new cases, the pain and after effect due to our economic shut down is being felt and worsening every minute of every day by the millions in our State. The time to lift or relax restrictions on all commerce is now.

These last few months have taught the citizens of our State how to protect themselves, their loved ones and those around them. Our citizens have learned to adjust and adhere to social distancing guidelines along with the businesses who have been fortunate enough to be allowed to open. Those businesses have adjusted their standard practices so that commerce can continue in a safe manner. It is time to allow all others to follow suit. While we are pleased you are finally relaxing your restrictions, we feel it is not enough. We have each in our own way relayed the concerns of the business communities in our respective municipalities to your office over the last few months but now do so as a unified group. We trust and have faith that our small businesses have the best interests of not just themselves but for our communities in mind. We have faith in them and ask you to have the same faith.

Several states have already lifted restrictions and what we see is an economy at best, slowly coming back for them. While stores are permitted to be open, business has been slow as many choose to stay home for a number of reasons, one being

no longer having the discretionary income to spend as freely as they did a few months ago. If we wait longer, the effects on our economy here in New Jersey will be worse. The lack of income combined with a fear of contracting or spreading the virus will cause consumers to stay home with or without government order. While this will be hard on small businesses at least they will have the chance to appeal to potential customers and employ others which benefits the economy, our tax base and most importantly the hard-working individuals who make our State function. Our businesses are intelligent and know that in order to open they will be adhering to new health and safety guidelines. They can do so while still operating. Our residents are equally as smart and if they choose not to shop, dine or discover what our businesses have to offer because they personally feel unsafe, then that is their decision not to venture out. But let our residents decide for themselves now that we as a whole have been educated and our businesses are committed to safety.

In our area, the Jersey Shore economy is seasonal in nature and that season is now upon us. The people who operate businesses want to see their customers stay safe and healthy so that they can return again in the future. It is in everyone's best interest to allow those that want to work and spend to be free to do so. The Shore and the state of New Jersey can ill afford to lose an entire summer season. We realize your restrictions are being lessened in phases, but that is not quick enough. They need to be done now and businesses need to return to normal operating procedures with the ability to handle normal inventory and customer demands to the best of their ability.

The 'possibility' of more openings and the 'possibility' of easing more restrictions is unfortunately not enough. These actions need to happen immediately, or the chance of re-opening will no longer exist for many of our businesses.

We have faith in our businesses, our residents and the great State of New Jersey. Our group will assist you in any way possible to get this done. Like the residents throughout our communities who have come together to support one another through these trying times, we can surely work together to open our economy now.

Respectfully on Behalf of:

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| BayHead Borough– Mayor William W. Curtis | Mantoloking Borough – Mayor E. Laurence (Lance) White |
| Beach Haven Borough – Mayor Nancy Taggart Davis | Ocean Gate Borough – Mayor Paul J. Kennedy |
| Beachwood Borough – Mayor Ronald F. Roma, Jr. | Point Pleasant Borough – Mayor Robert A. Sabosik |
| Brick Township – Mayor John G. Ducey | Point Pleasant Beach Borough – Mayor Paul M. Kanitra |
| Lacey Township – Mayor Steven C. Kennis | Seaside Heights Borough – Mayor Anthony E. Vaz |
| Lakehurst Borough – Mayor Harry Robbins | Seaside Park Borough – Mayor John A. Peterson, Jr. |
| Lavallette Borough – Mayor Walter G. LaCicero | Stafford Township – Mayor Gregory E. Myhre |
| Little Egg Harbor Township – Mayor Barbara Jo Crea | Toms River Township – Mayor Maurice “Mo” B. Hill, Jr. |
| Long Beach Township– Mayor Joseph H. Mancini | Tuckerton Borough – Mayor Susan R. Marshall |
| Manchester Township – Mayor Kenneth T. Palmer | |



Berkeley Township – Mayor Carmen F. Amato, Jr.