



May 22, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
254 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

RE: Re-Opening Plan for Washington County

Dear Governor Brown,

This week, we were very pleased to hear the positive news from our partners at Washington County that they plan on submitting their re-opening plan to your office today for your consideration and review. Our county's application will be on the heels of Clackamas County submission to your office. In many ways, Oregon has successfully managed the public health aspects of this crisis and flattened the curve successfully over these past weeks and months. We are collectively in a new chapter of this crisis which is lessening the deep economic impacts for our businesses within our community.

While we are supportive of our County submitting their re-opening plan, we are also extremely concerned that their plan recommends waiting until June 1st to reopen to Phase One. Collectively as Mayors within Washington County, we do not see any reason for waiting ten full days in light of a number of factors.

First, Washington County meets all of the seven criteria that you clearly defined in your re-opening plan. The one criteria that has been lacking is the contact tracing program, but the County has made significant progress over the past few weeks in this area. Our understanding is that the County has had up to 40 staff since May 8th who can provide surge capacity including disease investigation, contact tracing and all of the support for helping families comply with isolation and quarantine. Contracts have been signed with Express Professionals and OPHI for recruiting and training the additional staff needed in this important aspect and we are confident that the County will quickly build up resources to meet this guideline.

Second, our businesses within our respective communities have been working hard to prepare to re-open following the different types of guidance that the State has been providing over these past weeks. Business plans have been developed that focus on important protection for employees and customers but allow for the gradual re-opening of their operations. We trust our businesses to do the right thing as we enter the next phase. With the closure of their businesses through these past months, every day matters tremendously to many of our businesses. Waiting ten days to re-open will



potentially make or break some businesses. While some businesses may not be quite ready to open, we know many of them are prepared and ready.

Third, since our county is located adjacent to Yamhill County, many of our residents have been traveling down to Newberg for various services and activities since their county has been approved to re-open. As Governor, you have stressed many times through this pandemic that Oregonians should not be traveling outside of their communities, if possible. This activity would lessen if many of our local businesses were allowed to open now. We are also concerned if Clackamas County reopens sooner than Washington County since many of our communities border our neighboring Clackamas County as well. Our residents would be inundating Wilsonville as well. In addition, we are hearing that there are some services beginning to go “underground” in areas such as hair styling, nails and other personal services since the demand is high. These underground operations are likely not following all of the necessary safety precautions.

We urge you to quickly review and approve the well-thought and detailed re-opening plan that has been assembled by Washington County and allow our communities to join the vast majority of the rest of Oregon by opening on or before May 29, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Mays
Mayor
City of Sherwood

Frank Bubenik
Mayor
City of Tualatin

Gery Schirado
Mayor
City of Durham