



Washington State Legislature

January 15, 2021

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

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Inslee,

We the undersigned are in extreme opposition to your latest reopening plan. Tying rural counties with low COVID numbers to other areas of the state with high numbers is illogical.

For example, Kittitas County has worked very hard to contain the virus and stop its spread, but under your plan it is being tied in with Yakima County who has different challenges, higher population density and higher COVID numbers. This recovery plan is devastating for Ellensburg and the surrounding communities in Kittitas County.

Wilbur, Creston, Davenport and Odessa are small rural communities in the wheat country of eastern Washington with almost zero cases, yet under your plan they are tied to Spokane County, the city of Spokane and surrounding communities with much higher population densities and much higher infection rates. There is absolutely no reason to compare or tie these small, rural communities to the urban population areas who have high COVID numbers.

As we look at the map of the reopening regions, there are several other examples where rural is lumped in with the urban communities, it's apples and oranges. It is unfair to our citizens.

We have also heard that you are planning on changing the regions of the public health districts. The county health districts have done an outstanding job in slowing the spread of the virus and keeping people healthy. There is absolutely no reason to redraw the lines for our health departments. Serving their local population is the most efficient way for them to operate. We are not in favor of the realignment of our health departments.

And finally, governor, we have been living under your state of emergency declaration since Feb. 29, 2020. It's time to lift this state of emergency and let the elected representatives participate in this recovery effort along with their constituents. We are watching people suffer and families collapse, while depression, mental illness, suicide attempts, domestic violence, substance abuse, bankruptcies, and financial collapse are all on the rise. Our current path is not working, let our most capable electees from all around this state participate. We can protect our people, keep them safe from the virus and get people working. The citizens of this state deserve nothing less.

Most sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tom Dent in black ink.

Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Judy Warnick in black ink.

Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Alex Ybarra in black ink.

Representative Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District

Senator Keith Wagoneer
39th Legislative District

Representative Keith Goehner
12th Legislative District

Senator Lynda Wilson
17th Legislative District

Representative Vicki Kraft
17th Legislative District

Representative Bradley Klippert
8th Legislative District

Senator Jeff Holly
6th Legislative District

Representative Jenny Graham
6th Legislative District

Representative Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District

Representative Larry Hoff
18th Legislative District

Representative Matt Boehnke
8th Legislative District

Senator Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District

Representative Michelle Caldier
26th Legislative District

Representative Mary Dye
9th Legislative District

Senator Chris Gildon
25th Legislative District

Senator Shelly Short
7th Legislative District

Representative Carolyn Eslick
39th Legislative District

Senator Curtis King
14th Legislative District

Representative Kelly Chambers
25th Legislative District

Representative Cyndy Jacobsen
25th Legislative District

Representative Jim Walsh
19th Legislative District

Representative Ed Orcutt
20th Legislative District

Senator John Braun
20th Legislative District

Senator Ann Rivers
18th Legislative District

Representative Gina Mosbrucker
14th Legislative District



Representative Robert Sutherland
39th Legislative District



Representative Andrew Barkis
2nd Legislative District



Senator Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District



Senator Jim Honeyford
15th Legislative District



Representative Drew MacEwen
35th Legislative District



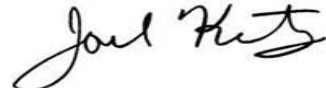
Senator Ron Muzzall
10th Legislative District



Representative Bruce Chandler
15th Legislative District



Representative Greg Gilday
10th Legislative District



Representative Joel Kretz
7th Legislative District



Representative Chris Corry
14th Legislative District



Senator Sharon Brown
8th Legislative District



Representative Jeremie Dufault
15th Legislative District



Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
7th Legislative District

