



May 29, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for all of your efforts to contain COVID-19 in our state, and know that your swift actions have saved hundreds, if not thousands of lives. Currently, you have one of the most difficult jobs in the country, working to balance public health and finding ways to stabilize the economy during an event unseen in our lifetime.

Our valley cities and the Snoqualmie tribe have rallied – we have come together to keep our communities safe, encouraging compliance with public health recommendations and found unique ways to do what we can to support our residents and businesses.

This has not been without a high cost to the hundreds of small businesses in our areas that have lost their livelihood, and many on the brink of failure.

We agree with the phased approach for re-opening the state safely but would like to call your attention to the Snoqualmie Valley in particular. The cities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, Carnation and Duvall are relatively isolated in east King County, without the density issues and challenges of larger cities.

Our cities have seen infection rates far lower than big cities in the King County and we feel strongly that many of our small businesses can – and should – be able to open today, in advance of the remainder of King County. In many ways, our small cities are very similar to the small counties that have already been able to open for Phase II.

We respectfully and strongly request that the Snoqualmie Valley be evaluated and restrictions loosened separate from King County as a whole. We have all been meeting with our small businesses, and know without a shadow of a doubt that the overwhelming majority can re-open safely, today, taking all recommended precautions, and many going even further.

In our cities, these businesses are our heart and soul. They support our community events, hold food drives, are always help people in need and truly are the foundation of our communities, and as you know, the Snoqualmie Valley exemplifies what healthy, happy and supportive communities are better than anywhere else in the state.

Without treating the valley differently than King County as a whole, we will lose a significant amount of the economic core our cities and businesses owners have worked for decades to develop.

We are ready, willing and able to work with your staff to ensure our communities can get to Phase II now, and help our communities from a literal economic and communal implosion. If these businesses close, they are not likely to return. Our cities cannot afford economically or socially to see this happen.

We are formally requesting that even if the King County Phase I restrictions remain, that we be allowed to move to Phase II. It is critical for our future, and we hope that despite the overwhelming nature of the tasks and responsibilities that you have before you, that you will help us take this step, and save our communities.

Sincerely,

Amy Ockerlander
Mayor
City of Duvall

Kim Lisk
Mayor
City of Carnation

Matt Larson
Mayor
City of Snoqualmie

Rob McFarland
Mayor
City of North Bend