

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

September 28, 2020

Dear Governor Walz,

On behalf of businesses in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul, we are following up to our letter last spring in which we requested a prompt turn of the dial from “business closure” to “business open” with personal/consumer responsibility. We appreciate the shift in messaging since then and feel it is imperative to take the next step.

For six months our businesses have invested and innovated to meet the health and safety needs of our communities. We were told last spring that business closures were mandated to allow time for our health care system to prepare to handle the virus. This has been accomplished, and yet there are several industries that are still under restrictions that make it unsustainable and will lead to many more permanent business closures.

Please consider:

- **Winners & Losers:** The Minnesota businesses that are struggling the most are ones still under mandated restrictions on capacity
- **Funds Running Out:** The funding “bridge” of programs like the PPP have come to an end and the businesses under capacity restrictions will not make it much longer
- **Consumer Confidence:** Fear among consumers remains high even though there is little evidence of community spread in businesses that are following protocols
- **Caught in the Middle:** Businesses are caught in the middle of government mandates and consumer demands on issues like masks and social distancing
- **Enforcement Concerns:** Current enforcement efforts seem to be aggressively targeting small businesses with large, punitive penalties for seemingly small infractions, rather than educating them to help them stay in business and follow the guidelines
- **Winter is Coming:** As cold weather approaches, many restaurants that are hanging on by a thread will not be able to make it with current guidelines

Our businesses are in a more precarious state now than they were in May. One Minnesota needs to include all businesses – and right now many are left out in the cold. Please enhance efforts to protect the vulnerable, empower the citizens of our state and **let our businesses get back to business safely with a final turn of the dial**.

Ed Kearney, President  
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Harmening, President  
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce



Kristy Barse, President  
Hastings Chamber of Commerce



Colleen Roth, President  
River Heights Chamber of Commerce



Cc: Doug Loon, President, MN Chamber of Commerce  
Steve Grove, Commissioner, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development