April 14, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
State Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan  48933  

Dear Governor Whitmer:

We would like to thank you for taking steps to keep the people of Michigan safe during this covid-19 pandemic. The promotion of social distancing was warranted, as was the “temporary” closing of schools and businesses. But, we believe your orders have gone too far, and disagree with the direction you are taking ALL of the people of Michigan, with no recognition of the distinct differences of our communities and our lifestyles.

You have sentenced ALL of us to a total shutdown of our schools and our economies to contain the virus, when most people here in Northern Michigan believe it has already been contained. Indeed, the incidence of cases here and the number of deaths attributed to those cases is on a parallel with other types of flu outbreaks that we typically experience every winter. Many of our schools here had already closed down for a few days to a week in early February due to a flu virus. Could this have been OUR covid-19 virus? Many think so.

It is Springtime. This is the time when construction gets started (after the frost leaves), when farmers get their fields ready, when nurseries move their stock, when our marinas ramp up, when realtors show potential buyers the beauties of an up-north cottage, and when our resorts line up their convention business. The opening of trout season is a kick-off to many small town events that have now been shut down, with no way to replace the tourist income that sustains their existence. This is unconscionable, Governor Whitmer, and we ask you to seriously reconsider your decision.

The people of Northern Michigan are hurt and, yes, they’re angry.

Do you really believe that they are being treated fairly by your onerous executive orders? The people of Northern Michigan do not believe that, and they are telling everyone that will listen that they will voice their objections loudly come November. Please do not turn your back on them. Show them that you really do understand ALL the people who live in Michigan. Please consider re-opening our businesses and communities before April 30th.

Sincerely,

Daire Rendon, District 103  
Triston Cole, District 105  
Michele Hoitenga, District 102  

Beau LaFave, District 108  
Greg Märkkanen, District 107