April 28, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Governor Whitmer –

As we continue to recover from COVID-19, I am pleased to see that you have embraced the concept of regional differentiation as part of a plan to reopen the state.

However, upon review of the MI Safe Start regions as proposed by the Michigan Economic Recovery Council, whose guidance you said will be a consideration as you move forward with plans to reopen the economy, St. Clair and Lapeer Counties are included in a nine-county Detroit Region. St. Clair and Lapeer Counties are nothing like the rest of this region. As of Monday, St. Clair County had 304 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and Lapeer County had 164 confirmed cases, while Detroit had 8,679 cases, Wayne County at 7,193, Oakland County at 6,913 and Macomb County at 5,245.

It strains credulity that St. Clair and Lapeer Counties, with a few hundred confirmed COVID-19 cases, would be placed in the same region as Wayne County, with several thousand COVID-19 cases. Unless you have different data than what the counties are providing, and if you do we would request a copy of it, it would appear that this map is not based on data that has been made available by each county and is out of touch with what is happening in our region. St. Clair and Lapeer should be on track for reopening much more quickly than the Metro Detroit area.

We need answers and information from you about how decisions like this are being made. Putting our small cities and townships in the same boat with Metro Detroit on COVID-19 – it’s not right and it’s not acceptable.

Sincerely,

Shane Hernandez
State Representative
83rd District

Gary Howell
State Representative
82nd District

Gary Eisen
State Representative
81st District

Pamela Hornberger
State Representative
32nd District