



May 19, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee:

As city leaders of Bonney Lake and Sumner, we join together in writing this letter urging you to allow businesses to open.

As you are aware, "one size does not fit all" when it comes to solutions for our cities, counties, and state. Bonney Lake and Sumner, with a combined population of 31,000 located in East Pierce County, is vastly different from Seattle and Tacoma.

While the health and safety of our communities is of the utmost importance, our businesses can open responsibly and safely today by following guidelines already in place by similar industries currently open. Our small businesses, which provide for our significant economic bases, are anxiously waiting for the green light to open. We all are finding the lack of consistency between which business are opened vs closed frustrating and inequitable. For example, small boutiques can be safe, if not safer, than a Costco or Fred Meyer that sells clothing, home goods, and other items besides food.

We would like to propose the following:

- Open businesses immediately that can comply with the health and safety requirements required of their industry that are already open. Allow the business owner to decide if they can and are ready to safely open.
- Continue to encourage people to follow safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing a face mask or covering when around others, and staying home when not feeling well.
- Encourage seniors and other at-risk members of the community to stay home.

Many of our businesses follow the same requirements of businesses in their industry already open. Our small business community is ready to safely serve its customers. Please allow these businesses to open now before they can no longer afford to stay in business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Johnson, Jr.".

Neil Johnson, Jr.
Bonney Lake Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Pugh".

Bill Pugh
Sumner Mayor