



# Charter Township of Garfield

## Grand Traverse County

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

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Many of us have been saddened by the loss of life and suffering presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We sincerely appreciate the efforts made by the State of the Michigan to combat this catastrophic outbreak. In Northern Michigan, the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order has been successful in minimizing the impact of pandemic. Fortunately, Northern Michigan has seen far fewer cases and deaths than other areas.

However, we've also witnessed the other impact of the order, including the harsh financial impact on small businesses which make up the vast majority of this region's economy. This impact has a rippling effect across our area and has impacted thousands of households. Federal support to small businesses has rapidly dwindled and has not been available to many of our local business owners.

Additionally, medical needs of many residents in our region have been put off due to the order. This has caused additional stress and compromised conditions that have are affecting the livelihood of those individuals and their families. We understand the actions needed to stop the virus but consideration needs to be given towards the other health conditions and trials of our population.

As we move forward, we understand the challenge of determining when and how to reopen businesses in Michigan. We further recognize that any approach to reopen businesses will be done in phases and require added conditions. In light of this, we are requesting the following actions:

1. Take action to reopen businesses on a regional basis. A regional approach recognizes places where conditions are stable and unlikely to return. For business owners and employees of Northern Michigan, this consideration is critical.
2. Reopening efforts should quickly recognize that certain businesses can operate with no further threat of spreading the virus. Businesses such as construction, landscaping, and greenhouse operations are clear examples where the likelihood of new contamination can be mitigated.

Thank you for review of this matter of critical importance to this region of the state.

Sincerely,

Chuck Korn, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Garfield  
3848 Veterans Drive  
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