



Businesses are ready to restart our economy, keep us safe

October 29, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz, Governor  
State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

On behalf of hundreds of thousands of businesses and more than 70 local chambers of commerce and trade associations across Minnesota, we urge you to “turn the dial forward” to open all consumer-facing businesses to a greater capacity and return workers to their offices with limitations.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the business community has shared the responsibility of balancing the need for public health protections and economic impacts. Businesses which have remained open throughout this crisis have taken necessary steps to protect employee and customer health. Without decisive action to increase capacity prior to the cold weather setting in, many will be lost. This is not simply a personal loss for business owners. This is a loss of commercial and economic activity to the thousands of workers, their communities, local governments and the state.

We ask you to take the next steps in helping a wide range of businesses remain viable which include:

- Update the Executive Order from “must” work from home to “should” work from home and allow office work to resume at a limited occupancy based on building occupancy fire codes recognizing certain office functions are best performed in person to ensure productivity;
- Increase customer-facing retail capacity under current safeguards;
- Increase restaurant capacity, with consideration for social distancing or the use of barriers (plexiglass, curtains, etc.) to mitigate risk;
- Increase capacity for personal services (salons, barbershops, and tattoo parlors) under current safeguards;
- Increase capacity for gyms, personal fitness and yoga studios, and martial arts under current safeguards; and
- Expand event capacity for indoor and outdoor events and entertainment (similar to religious gatherings).

Minnesota businesses are ready and have designed plans to safely return workers and protect their customers at greater capacity. They have been making incremental progress by being open at a small percentage of their total capacity, but it does not sustain any long-term viability or success.

As business organizations, we stand ready to help ensure our members are prepared to open more fully – that they have instituted health and safety protocols for their workers and customers and have a preparedness plan in place. We are confident in their ability to do the right thing and are working with them, each and every day to understand state guidelines and employ best practices.

It’s time to get Minnesota moving again, in the safest way possible for employees and customers, while protecting businesses of all sizes. Minnesota’s long-term economic future is counting on it.

## MINNEASOTA READY COALTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFELY OPENING MINNESOTA'S BUSINESSES

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce  
Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce  
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce  
Blue Earth Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce  
Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce  
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce  
Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce  
Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce  
Crookston Area Chamber & Visitor's Bureau  
Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce  
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Delano Area Chamber of Commerce  
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce  
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce  
Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce  
Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce  
Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Wayzata Area Chamber of Commerce  
Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau  
Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce  
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce  
Hospitality Minnesota  
Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism  
I94 West Chamber of Commerce  
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce  
Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Litchfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce  
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce  
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus  
Minnesota Beverage Association  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association  
Minnesota Recruiting and Staffing Association  
Minnesota Retailers Association  
Minnesota Trucking Association  
Minnesota Utility Contractors Association  
Moose Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Morris Area Chamber of Commerce  
New Prague Chamber of Commerce  
New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce  
Nisswa Chamber of Commerce  
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB  
River Heights Chamber of Commerce  
Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce  
Savage Chamber of Commerce  
Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau  
SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce  
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce  
St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce  
The Chamber Grand Forks & East Grand Forks  
Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Twin Cities North Chamber  
Waconia Chamber of Commerce  
White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce  
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce  
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce  
Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce  
Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB