



Will County Governmental League

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May 15, 2020

Governor JB Pritzker
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor Pritzker,

On behalf of the 33 members of the Will County Governmental League (WCGL), we would like to provide several comments and recommendations on the Restore Illinois Plan. Like you, nothing is more important to us than the safety and overall well-being of our residents. Based on our review of the Restore Illinois Plan, we believe we can provide the safety our residents demand, while also re-opening many of our businesses sooner than other parts of the Northeast Region.

Will County communities are very different (in terms of both population size and density) to those in other parts of the Northeast Region. For some perspective, two-thirds of WCGL communities have under 25,000 residents, and all but five are smaller than a single ward within the City of Chicago. To equate these communities to others in the Northeast Region is unfair to our residents, devastating to our economy, and harmful to the overall well-being of our residents. WCGL communities should be evaluated as a county, or, at a minimum, as a part of one of the other regions of the State that more closely aligns with our population and density. It's also worth noting that the EMS zones used in the Restore Illinois Plan were established in the early 1970s, and do not reflect today's distribution of health care resources across the region.

Businesses in our communities are also very different from those in more densely populated areas. The size of our communities allows us as mayors to know our business owners, to understand their needs, and to be able to work with them to implement safe business practices to re-open. Many of the businesses in our communities see less patrons in a day than some "essential" big box retailers see in an hour. Subsequently, these businesses can implement proper social distancing precautions and move to phase 3 or 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan sooner.

Our members are concerned (and we know you are as well) about the most vulnerable populations in our county. We believe we should all work further to protect our senior communities, congregate living facilities, and other populations that have been shown to be more at risk from this virus. We must also be committed to ensuring the safety of our front-line folks, such as health care workers, first responders, and others in industry. We are committed to working alongside the State of Illinois and the Will County Health Department to focus



resources where they are most needed. This will allow us to protect our most vulnerable citizens while opening up opportunities for the larger population.

Finally, it is our opinion that the 28 day evaluation period should be shortened to 14 days, in accordance with guidance from the CDC. This will allow regions to progress as quickly as possible, and in a safe manner. Any delay in re-opening will only add to an already dire situation for many of our residents and businesses.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these recommendations. We appreciate that this is an unprecedented situation with no handbook to follow. Working together, however, we believe that we can provide our communities with both safe environments and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Greg Szymanski
Mayor, Village of Beecher

Roger Claar
Mayor, Village of Bolingbrook

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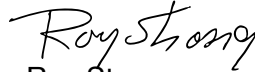
John Noak
Mayor, Village of Romeoville



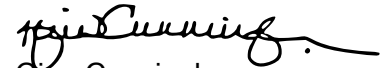
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Gina Cunningham
Mayor, Village of Woodridge

cc: Will County Governmental League Area Legislators