



April 23, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Gov. Wolf,

Thank you for outlining further your plan to reopen private sector activities in Pennsylvania last evening. Basing this process on science and regional circumstances is the appropriate way to handle this very complex and dynamic issue to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens. To bolster this process, we are reaching out to request your immediate consideration for the establishment of a governor's select and bipartisan task force of experts and leaders from the fields of business, labor, health care, and emergency response, together with appropriate representation from local government and state and federal legislative leadership

The plan that was outlined is a great start, but there are understandably many unanswered questions. A bipartisan task force could work through and hash out many of these issues and assist you and your administration in what is a universally recognized heavy lift. Organizations like the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance are partnering with our fellow regional organizations and our local officials to address the needs and concerns of our members and our local citizens. Statewide organizations are doing similar work. It would be a natural extension of that organic coordination for your administration to utilize that network of resources and expertise to make the best and most informed decisions possible.

We hope that you will act quickly to organize this bipartisan task force so that plans for reopening can be fleshed out further as we approach May 8 and beyond. We will need to have very difficult conversations about how to address a myriad of issues, especially as we address activities in densely populated areas. This task force could assist with both forward-thinking and nimble actions that would be invaluable to your administration and the Commonwealth.

We appreciate all of the hard work of you and your team and recognize you must make very difficult and unprecedented decisions. As we move through this crisis, we want to offer our elbow bump in cooperation and collaboration.

In the spirit of a unified, bipartisan, and statewide solution to this crisis, we look forward to your thoughts on the establishment of this task force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gerlach", written over a thin horizontal line.

Jim Gerlach  
President & CEO, Greater Reading Chamber Alliance

CC: Senator Robert Casey  
Senator Patrick Toomey

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean  
Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan  
Congressman Daniel P. Meuser  
President Pro Tempore Joseph Scarnati  
Senator David Argall  
Senator Robert Mensch  
Senator Katie Muth  
Senator Judith Schwank  
Speaker Mike Turzai  
Representative Tom Caltagirone  
Representative Jim Cox  
Representative Gary Day  
Representative Mark Gillen  
Representative Barry Jozwiak  
Representative Jerry Knowles  
Representative Ryan Mackenzie  
Representative David Maloney  
Representative Mark Rozzi  
Commissioner Christian Leinbach  
Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt  
Commissioner Michael Rivera  
Mayor Eddie Moran  
Gene Barr, President & CEO, PA Chamber  
David Taylor, President, PA Manufacturers Association  
Gordon Denlinger, President, PA Chapter of National Federation of Independent Businesses  
Richard W. Bloomingdale, President, PA AFL-CIO  
Mike Welsh, International Vice President, IBEW  
Andy Carter, President & CEO, Hospital & Health System Association of PA  
John Gallaher, MD, Board President, PA Medical Society  
Lisa Schaefer, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of PA  
David Sanko, Executive Director, PA Association of Township Supervisors  
Chris Cap, PA Association of Boroughs  
Rick Schuettler, Executive Director, PA Municipal League  
Rick Ebert, President, PA Farm Bureau  
Chris Herr, Executive Vice President, PennAg Industries  
Alex Baloga, President & CEO, PA Food Merchant Association  
David G. Greineder, Director of Government Affairs, ABC of PA  
Diane Barber, Executive Director, PA Child Care Association