



MICHIGAN HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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May 18, 2020

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

Governor Whitmer,

As we continue to recover from COVID-19, I am pleased to see that you have embraced the concept of regional differentiation as part of a plan to reopen the state.

However, upon review of the MI Safe Start regions as proposed by the Michigan Economic Recovery Council, whose guidance you said will be a consideration as you move forward with plans to reopen the economy, Livingston County is included in a nine-county Detroit Region. The number of COVID-19 cases in Livingston County has not been anywhere near as high as the three counties surrounding Detroit. As of May 17, Livingston County had 385 confirmed cases of the virus, while Wayne County had 19,065, Oakland County had 8,043 and Macomb County had 6,345.

It simply doesn't make sense for Livingston County, with a few hundred confirmed COVID-19 cases, to be placed in the same region as Wayne County, with several thousand COVID-19 cases. Unless you have different data than the information being provided to the public on the state coronavirus website, it would appear this map is not based on scientific facts. If you are accessing alternate data to form these regions, we ask to be provided a copy of it as soon as possible.

In addition, the emergency preparedness regions developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in the past have included Livingston County in the Lansing region. Our county has not been included in a Detroit region under Michigan Works! Talent districts, or Community Mental Health Partnership regions. It is frustrating and confusing that our area is now being included with Detroit – even though there is no data to support the change and it is quite out of touch with what it is happening in our region.

Based on the data available, there is no question that Livingston County should be on track for reopening much more quickly than the Metro Detroit area. We ask that you consider making adjustments to the MI Safe Start regions to more accurately reflect what is happening in our communities.

Sincerely,

Ann Bollin
State Representative
42nd District

Hank Vaupel
State Representative
47th District