



Lancaster Chamber

April 27, 2020

Dear Governor Wolf:

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge our respect for the tireless work you've undertaken to try to lead and manage Pennsylvania during these unprecedented times. We fully appreciate the thoughtful approach you've taken to managing the crisis and the priority you've placed on the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians.

I write, however, with a request for some clarification and an ask.

As you laid out the guidelines for Pennsylvania last week, Lancaster County officials were surprised to learn that we were grouped with the Southeast Region of Pennsylvania, a group we don't readily identify with via commerce, population density, media market or overall travel patterns. And, to be frank, a Region that we believe could hold us back from the local recovery process we look forward to.

The classification has generated much concern and confusion within the local business community.

Therefore, I write with three questions:

1. What was the rationale for grouping us with the Southeast Region?
2. By what process is there that we could request being moved to the South Central Region?
3. Given the recent metrics you've outlined for re-opening, do you plan to re-open Pennsylvania business by region, by county or by some other method?

Recently, the Lancaster Chamber and the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County launched a Plan for Economic Recovery, designed to prepare our community for the eventual re-opening of business once we meet the metrics you've laid out. The plan is comprehensive and pro-active and includes a significant emphasis on the health and welfare of our entire population and, more specifically, the workforce. In other words, we are working hard to be ready when the time comes and to know that our "ready" includes a significant focus on public safety. The plan is attached.

It remains our hope that we can leverage this thorough, collaborative process in a way that demonstrates confidence in our ability to chart our course toward re-opening and we would welcome any insight you could provide to help ensure that and, as importantly, clarify our path forward.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and your consideration of our request. I can be reached at tbaldrige@lancasterchamber.com or 717-201-2878.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Baldrige
President & CEO
Lancaster Chamber

Cc: Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine
Senator Ryan Aument
Senator Scott Martin
PA House Majority Leader Bryan Cutler
Representative Mindy Fee
Representative Keith Greiner
Representative Dave Hickernell
Representative Steve Mentzer
Representative Brett Miller
Representative Mike Sturla
Representative Dave Zimmerman
Commissioner Josh Parsons
Commissioner Ray D'Agostino
Commissioner Craig Lehman