

As community leaders, we understand and appreciate the difficult decisions you have faced and continue to face in leading Washington's ongoing COVID response. And as the state's vaccination program rolls out with continued success, we share both your concern over rising COVID cases and your desire to reverse the trend swiftly. However, we are requesting a three-week pause on any decision to roll counties back to Phase 2, which we believe would punish struggling businesses for personal behavior while doing little to stop the spread of COVID.

We recognize that this is a critical moment in time to sustain the public compliance necessary to contain the virus, while also recognizing that doing so requires us to stay together as one Washington across all sectors, industries, and communities. After a very difficult fall and winter, our state finally celebrated together the important milestone of Phase 3 reopening. We believe it is imperative to harness this sense of unity in achieving the most important thing we can do to defeat this virus: significantly increase our vaccination rate.

As we approach the next major milestone on April 15, when all adults become eligible for the vaccine, our collective energies should be directed toward the common goal of ensuring that every county receives their due allocations and educating and encouraging all members of the public to get vaccinated. We are ready and willing to assist your efforts in achieving this common goal. But sending communities back to Phase 2 will only create a divisive distraction *away* from this common goal, while further disadvantaging those counties that never received their full vaccine allocations before being shut down again.

More than that, however, a Phase 2 rollback will not work to contain the virus. Data from our and other states show that 25 percent capacity limits do not deter people from gathering, while 50 percent capacity limits with our strong protocols in place do work to provide people with safe outlets to socialize. In fact, a selective roll-back approach will be counterproductive to the goal of limiting the potential spread of the virus: People in Cowlitz County will travel to Clark County, just as people in Pierce and Lewis counties will travel to Thurston County, just as people in Franklin County will travel to Walla Walla County, and so on.

The decisions you make in this critical moment will not only determine how we respond to the challenges of the pandemic, but they will help determine whether we meet these challenges as a united or divided state. We urge you to grant us the opportunity to remain united. Give us three weeks, and together, we can make a large leap forward in increasing vaccinations and stamping out this virus.



Association of Washington Business

Association of Washington Business



Building Industry Association of Washington



Washington Bankers



Washington Food Industry Association



Washington Forest Protection Association



Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce



Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce



Washington Hospitality Association



Washington Realtors



WASHINGTON RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Washington Retail Association



Washington State Farm Bureau



Washington Trucking Associations



Blaine Chamber of Commerce



Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce



Coupeville Chamber of Commerce



Covington Chamber of Commerce



Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce



Fife Milton Edgewood Chamber



Greater Federal Way Chamber



Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.



Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce



Greater Lake Stevens Chamber



Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce



Greater Marysville Tulalip Chamber



Greater Spokane Incorporated



Greater Spokane Valley Chamber



Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce



Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce



Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce



Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce



Lakewood Chamber of Commerce



Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber



Moses Lake Chamber



Quincy Valley Chamber



Mt. Baker Chamber of Commerce



OneRedmond  
OneRedmond



Renton Chamber of Commerce



*Sammamish Chamber  
of Commerce*  
Sammamish Chamber



Pasco Chamber of Commerce



Prosser Chamber of Commerce



Seattle Southside Chamber



Pullman Chamber of Commerce



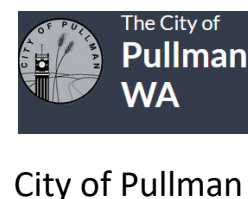
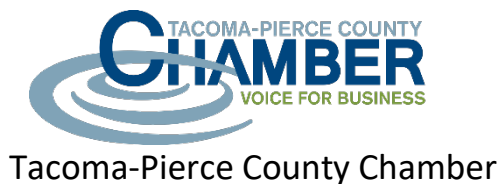
Shelton-Mason County Chamber



Puyallup Sumner



SnoValley Chamber of Commerce





HUB Sports Center



Olympic Sports Center in  
Bremerton



Pacific Northwest Qualifier



Puyallup Juniors Volleyball Club



The Warehouse