



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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June 25, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown,

The ongoing public health emergency caused by COVID-19 continues to have profound and significant impacts on our citizens. The State of Oregon has now been under a declared state of emergency for over three months, including requirements to maintain social distancing, closing of schools, bans on most types of gatherings and severely restricted business operations. Now it appears that the state of emergency could last well into the fall, a reality that will only add to the ongoing struggles of individuals and the greater economy.

And, while the Oregon Supreme Court did recently uphold your authority to declare an indefinite state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we are writing to ask that you consider doing more. Given the tremendous impact these emergency orders have on civil liberties and the significant restrictions they place on individuals and organizations alike, we would encourage you to consider placing end dates on these orders and that you provide more information to the public at regular intervals about the ongoing justification and scientific rationale for extension. If this information could be shared each time the emergency orders were up for renewal, we believe that this added transparency and data would greatly help the public's understanding of your decisions.

Oregon law grants the Governor broad powers to craft the state's overall response to emergencies like the COVID-19 public health crisis. We feel that it is only appropriate to set date limits on these emergency orders to provide the opportunity, at regular intervals, for an update to legislators, commissioners, mayors, other elected officials and the general public regarding the ongoing basis for their continuation.

Sincerely,

Casey Kulla
Chair

Mary Starrett
Vice-Chair

Richard L. "Rick" Olson
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
6/25/2020 by Board Order
20-187