



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Telephone: (907) 586-5240; Facsimile: (907) 586-5385

Beth.Weldon@juneau.org

May 14, 2020

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your leadership during the coronavirus emergency. Juneau citizens continue to express sincere appreciation for the comprehensive regular updates from you, Commissioner Crum, and Dr. Zink. As you consider lifting restrictions on interstate travel, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau wishes to work with you to implement actions that are protective of public health while also advancing economic activity in Juneau, Southeast, and the State.

As you are aware, virus spread in Juneau has been low. Juneau citizens have effectively flattened the curve and continue to comply with the intents of your Health Mandates and CBJ's Hunker Down Ordinance.

While Juneauites have moved cautiously with you to a gradual "re-opening" in your Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan Phases I and II, the community and the Assembly remain concerned about the prospect of lifting interstate travel restrictions. In part because Juneau, along with other towns in Southeast, have limited entry through airport, ferry, and private boat, the virus spread will likely be through increased travel into our community this summer. As you consider lifting interstate travel restrictions, we ask that you closely link the lifting of the 14-day quarantine restrictions with enhanced testing capabilities. As you know, "travel" cases are a major source of coronavirus infections into Alaska and your team has done a tremendous job of keeping those inputs to a minimum.

As the capital and a regional hub, Juneau plays host to many traveling workers, including the legislators and their staff, the miners and support staff at Kensington and Greens Creek mines, the fishing fleet and the fish processing workers at Excursion Inlet and in Juneau at Taku Fisheries and Alaska Glacier Seafoods. In normal years, we also welcome many independent tourists and the highest number of cruise ship passengers of any community in Alaska.

Juneau is also very aware of our role as a regional medical center for smaller towns that do not have healthcare facilities adequate in the event of a breakout of COVID19. We ask you to consider the needs of those communities in the context of modifications to the health mandates.

We believe that working with your administration we can make Juneau a testing center for these industries that can allow Alaskans to get back to work and to advance the economic interests of the State while looking out for public health. With excellent air service to the towns and villages of Southeast, we are well poised to provide same day testing in the region and possibly assist in testing for the rest of the state. We would like to partner with your administration in pursuit of this goal.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor