

**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

As we continue to battle the COVID-19 Pandemic, much of our daily life has changed. While some things are out of our control, some things we can change. One area that has yet to be addressed by your office is the statutory guidelines for land use and zoning applications. Perhaps one of the strongest cornerstones of our government is public participation. With these meetings moving virtual, the general public is unable to participate as they once did in the past. Call-in or web meetings do not replace the importance of in person public comments.

In Warren County, many of the projects currently being proposed are of significant public interest. Depriving them of true participation is wrong. I am asking that you suspended the statutory deadlines set forth in New Jersey law until your executive orders have been lifted. Should a local jurisdiction feel it appropriate to proceed, that is acceptable but they should not feel forced by these current deadlines.

These are truly unprecedented times for our state and nation, but we must act in a way that best represents the public good.

I wish you well and look forward to your response and swift action on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Kern, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

James R. Kern, III  
Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director