



Atlantic County

Executive Office

DL-63-20

Dennis Levinson
County Executive

May 28, 2020

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Governor Phil Murphy
125 West State Street
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor:

We sent you a letter on May 18 to request the reopening of all retail businesses in time for the Memorial Day weekend. But as of today, nearly one week after the holiday weekend, most of those “non-essential” businesses remain closed with the exception of some that are permitted to provide curbside service. Those still closed include a great number of small “mom and pop” stores that depend upon the busy summer tourism season to carry them through the year.

We are repeatedly asked why this is the case and when they will be able to reopen. All we can say is “the governor won’t permit it.” Yet, they point to their competition, the bigger box stores such as Target, Walmart, Sam’s Club, Lowe’s and more, selling many of the same goods, that are benefiting from an increase in profits while their own businesses are bleeding dry.

It would be helpful if we had an explanation to provide them or the science and data behind your decision to keep them closed or operating at a limited capacity.

We strongly believe the small businesses can be just as responsible, if not more so, than their larger, national competitors. It is far easier for them to enforce social distancing, face masks, and hygiene and sanitation protocols by virtue of the smaller numbers of customers and employees.

We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience so we can inform our local retailers why their governor will not permit them the same opportunity to operate as their competition.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dennis Levinson in blue ink.

Dennis Levinson
County Executive

Handwritten signature of Frank D. Formica in blue ink.

Frank D. Formica
Freeholder Chairman

c: Stephen M. Sweeney, NJ Senate President
Dawn Marie Addiego, NJ State Senator, District 8
Chris A. Brown, NJ State Senator, District 2
Christopher J. Connors, NJ State Senator, District 9
Michael Testa, NJ State Senator, District 1
Lauren H. Moore, Jr., Executive Director, Atlantic County Economic Alliance



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