



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor, State of New Mexico
Capitol Building
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Suite 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

Your recent decision to restrict dine-in service at restaurants could very well be the death knell this industry has been struggling to avoid since you shut the state down in March.

This past May, it was reported that over 200 restaurants have permanently closed due to the shutdown; thousands of jobs were lost. Due to your decision, we will likely see further closures, greater economic pain, and conditions that could very well contribute to mental health problems, suicide, and other health-related issues.

Further, we have seen no data that shows the current uptick in COVID-19 infections being related to restaurant activity. On the contrary, the restaurant industry has been bending over backward to maintain the strictest of standards to meet your requirements. Restaurants have been limiting the number of patrons allowed inside, they have been maintaining at least six feet between tables, they have eliminated bar service, and they do require everyone to wear a mask except when eating. If anything, they are contributing to the control of the virus' spread. Yet, your decision last week singles out the very industry that has been actively engaged with helping to protect the public from the beginning.

Governor, we share your commitment to stopping the spread of the virus and are willing to lend our support to common sense efforts to do just that. However, there is no reason to take arbitrary action against the industry that provides so many jobs to our state and that has been a willing participant in working to fight the spread of COVID-19. Punishing any industry due to your inability to get New Mexicans to "just behave" is unacceptable.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to close dine-in service. New Mexico's restaurant industry and legislators across the state are eager to work with your administration to find effective means of protecting our citizens and their livelihoods. But, shutting both out of the decision making process will only be counterproductive.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim Townsend in black ink.

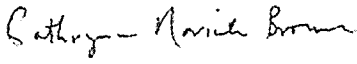
Jim Townsend
Republican Floor Leader- HD 54

Handwritten signature of Rod Montoya in black ink.

Rod Montoya
Republican Whip- HD 1

Handwritten signature of Candy Spence Ezzell in black ink.

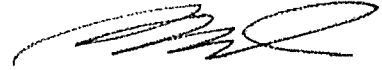
Candy Spence Ezzell
Republican Caucus Chair- HD 58



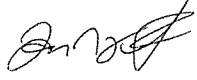
Cathrynn Brown
State Representative- HD 55



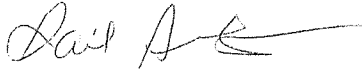
Randy Crowder
State Representative- HD 64



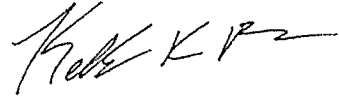
Rebecca Dow
State Representative- HD 38



James Strickler
State Representative- HD 2



Gail Armstrong
State Representative- HD 49



Kelly Fajardo
State Representative- HD 7



Alonzo Baldonado
State Representative- HD 8



Gregg Schmedes
State Representative- HD 22



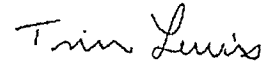
Jack Chatfield
State Representative- HD 67



Martin Zamora
Representative- HD 63



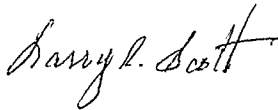
Bill Rehm
State Representative- HD 31



Tim Lewis
State Representative- HD 60



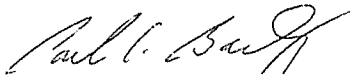
Greg Nibert
State Representative- HD 59



Larry Scott
State Representative- HD 62



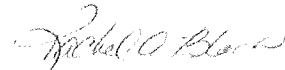
David Gallegos
State Representative- HD 61



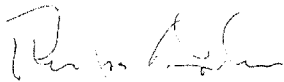
Paul Bandy
State Representative- HD 3



Zach Cook
State Representative- HD 56



Rachel Black
State Representative – HD 51



Phelps Anderson
State Representatives- HD 66



Jane Powdrell-Culbert
State Representative- HD 44