June 3, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

Thank you for your continued leadership during these uncertain and extremely challenging times. We send this letter in the spirit of cooperation and compromise to do what is best for our community and regional economy.

As community leaders in the Quad Cities, we are encouraged to be in Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan and to see businesses impacted the most begin to reopen to their customers. We also want to acknowledge, and praise, your decision to allow for outdoor seating into Phase 3, which is a great first step. As you know, most in the restaurant industry are small family-owned businesses and every day they are not fully open provides significant vulnerability to their survival. Flexibility is critical to their future.

In addition, we believe other considerations should be made to help businesses in the current reopening phase. We urge you to consider the following:

- In addition to outdoor dining, allow for a reduced amount of indoor dining, up to 50% of their business indoors, along with outdoor seating. This would provide more opportunity for these small businesses to potentially survive the crisis while following restaurant health regulations and social distancing protocols.
- Additionally, allowing casinos, bowling alleys, gyms/fitness centers, museums, and other businesses to open under similar capacity and health guidelines.

These recommendations could be considered a “Phase 3b” to help businesses get back to serving customers and put more Illinoisans back to work.

We look forward to working with you to continue combating the current health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Paul Rumler, President and CEO, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
Dave Herrell, President and CEO, Visit Quad Cities
Zachary Sullivan, Executive Director, Geneseo Chamber of Commerce
Mike Thoms, Mayor, City of Rock Island
Reggie Freeman, Mayor, East Moline
Matt Carter, Mayor, Silvis
Duane Dawson, Mayor, Milan
Rick Lack, Mayor, Colona
Sean Johnson, Mayor, Geneseo
Richard Brunk, County Chairman, Rock Island County
Marshall Jones, Chairman, Henry County
Kippy Breeden, Vice-Chair, Henry County

cc: Erin Guthrie, Director, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity