April 20, 2020

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

Dear Governor Pritzker,

I write to thank you and your administration for leading Illinois through these challenging and uncertain times on behalf of nearly 1,500 Quad Cities Chamber members, and as a representative of the entire Quad Cities business community.

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a fight that most of us haven’t endured in our lifetimes. Rather, this is unchartered territory and I believe that bold, decisive action is needed by all stakeholders in response to the health of the public, as well as the health of our economy. In the Quad Cities, we are one region based in two states and the Chamber is leading the charge to create a regional economy where all can thrive. With that premise, I ask you to consider some requests that we believe will be beneficial for not only our region, but for all Illinoisans.

First, the Quad Cities Chamber supports easing restrictions on residents and businesses as soon as it is safe to do so. We support making these decisions in direct correlation to the data, analysis, and advice of health officials. As you convene leaders from across the state to consider this topic, I ask you to include a representative from the Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development industry, like the Quad Cities Chamber, who are working directly with and on behalf of the regional business community. It would be helpful to ensure all parts of Illinois are represented in this group and to offer a unique perspective in being in a bi-state regional economy.

As you consider ways to ease restrictions in Illinois, I was happy to hear you are working with your midwestern colleagues to help reopen our economies. Although not part of the coalition, please continue to engage with Governor Reynolds in Iowa and help establish guidelines that are similar in both states. It is critically important to our regional economy because a vast majority of our members have either a location in both Iowa and Illinois, employees who live and work in different states, or do business with customers in both states. It could create unnecessary barriers to our businesses, and their customers, if we have two sets of vastly different rules in our region when the economy opens back up. While the federal government has laid out very specific guidelines for when that time comes, it is important to work together with other midwestern states to ensure our businesses are operating on a level playing field.
I appreciate your time in considering these requests. The Quad Cities Chamber looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the State of Illinois in supporting and growing our economy. While I know that you are tasked with tough decisions amidst a global pandemic, I believe that these ideas will greatly address the needs of our regional, and statewide, business climate.

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss these plans further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Rumler  
President and CEO  
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce