



March 16, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Dear Governor Wolf:

As the elected members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly representing Bucks County we support efforts to mitigate the further spread of the novel corona virus, Covid19. We are writing now to bring to your attention what we believe is a serious gap in those efforts to date, however.

A number of the businesses in Bucks County that have been deemed non-essential have voiced their concern to us that the omission of Philadelphia County from these mitigation requirements has created an untenable situation. They rightly point out that their customers can easily drive to Philadelphia where no restrictions are in place. Indeed, imposing restrictions in Bucks without doing so in contiguous Philadelphia creates an incentive for that to happen. As a consequence, mitigation efforts are seriously undermined and Bucks businesses are put at an economic disadvantage.

This problem is compounded by tomorrow's Saint Patrick's Day holiday. We fear that the unequal treatment of the two counties will entice Bucks residents to travel to Philadelphia to celebrate at bars and restaurants that are open. Again, this will undermine efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus, disadvantage Bucks businesses and create a potential hazard on the roads to the extent it increases the incidence of drunk driving.

For all of these reasons, we request that you extend the mitigation rules currently in effect for Bucks County and the other collar counties to Philadelphia no later than the end of today.

Respectfully,

Sen. Steve Santarsiero
Sen. Bob Mensch
Rep. Todd Polinchock
Rep. Perry Warren
Rep. Meghan Schroeder
Rep. Wendy Ullman
Rep. Craig Staats

Sen. Robert Tomlinson
Sen. Maria Collett
Rep. Tina Davis
Rep. Frank Farry
Rep. Wendi Thomas
Rep. John Galloway

Cc: Bucks County Commissioners
Montgomery County Commissioners
Delaware County Council
Chester County Commissioners