



Passed May 12th, 2020

Resolution to Re-Open Benton County for Business

WHEREAS, the business owners of Benton County have complied with the declaration of a state of emergency by Governor Inslee at the risk of their livelihood, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Benton County have demonstrated that they can be safe and responsible during this CoVID 19 pandemic by flattening the curve in incidents, and

WHEREAS, the economy of Benton County has been built upon small businesses and farmers, many of which have suspended their businesses to do their part to provide a safe and healthy environment for their community. As these businesses, farmers and the community have been educated on how to safely and responsibly interact with the community to reduce the spread of CoVid 19, the citizens of Benton County feel that now is the time to re-open Benton County for business, and

WHEREAS, the current declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor has unequally and unreasonably lumped urban and rural areas; and has burdened the small and individual businesses relative to large corporations and state procedures, and

WHEREAS, per the Constitution of the State of Washington, Article 1, Section 1, "POLITICAL POWER. All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed and are established to protect and maintain individual rights", and

WHEREAS, the political power of the state belongs to the people, and the people are responsible for their health and economic choices, and

WHEREAS, the sooner we discontinue the restrictions, the sooner we will recover from the negative economic impacts, and regain mental and physical health and social wellbeing, and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Commissioners have taken leadership action to influence statewide policy that recognizes the differences in risk of transmission between urban and rural communities, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Republican Party agrees with the Benton County Commissioners that regional flexibility is needed so that communities like ours with resilient and adaptable people, systems, and healthcare infrastructure can return to work, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Benton County should be granted a waiver by Governor Inslee to take immediate action to safely and responsibly re-open businesses and operations while providing medically appropriate safeguards for high risk populations.