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August 6, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf Governor of Pennsylvania 508 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

As restaurants across our Commonwealth grapple with the effects of COVID-19, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your recent mitigation efforts that are jeopardizing restaurants' ability to survive this pandemic.

I agree that targeting bad actors - bars or restaurants that have not been complying with social distancing, masking, or capacity limits - is vital to slowing the spread of this disease. It is unfair, however, to crack down uniformly on all restaurants and taverns, in all areas of the state. A 25% capacity limit is not only unsustainable for these establishments, it is unclear whether this provides significantly better health outcomes than 50% capacity restrictions.

Furthermore, as a representative on the border of West Virginia, these restrictions put our businesses at a competitive disadvantage and may be counterproductive for residents who will simply cross the state line to dine more freely. The Governor of West Virginia is implementing restrictions on a county-by-county basis, instead of blanket regulations that negatively impact areas with a small number of cases.

I respectfully ask you to revert to your previous guidelines allowing 50% indoor capacity for restaurants and bars and urge you to employ the surgical approach of placing restrictions on a county-by-county basis so that bars and restaurants in my area can survive the devastating impacts of your order. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Pam Snyder

State Representative

50th Legislative District

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