

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER  
**ALLIANCE**  
ALPENA • BENZIE • CADILLAC • CHARLEVOIX • GAYLORD  
PETOSKEY • TRAVERSE CITY • MANISTEE • MARQUETTE

May 14, 2020

Governor Whitmer:

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance would like to offer our sincere thanks for your continued attention to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your efforts to keep Michiganders safe and address the health and economic crises. The Alliance has made it our key priority to listen and support businesses during this time.

The Alliance is supportive and excited about the regional reopening plan that you announced late last month, because our organization knows that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Our rural northern Michigan communities are eager to show that our business owners are committed to protocols to keep customers and employees safe. After being joined by business owner Rachel Lutz on your May 13 briefing, we are hopeful that you will consider opening additional business sectors on a regional basis.

We have engaged in this entire process in a constructive manner – and continue in that tone today by offering you a solution: allow northern Michigan to be your test case. Our communities in regions 6 and 8 are committed to implementing clear guidelines for safe operating practices, including expanded COVID-19 testing, use of PPE, employing modified social-distancing practices, and comprehensive cleaning procedures. We are confident that our business owners will take protocols seriously; this is their livelihood.

On behalf of our rural northern Michigan partners in Alpena, Benzie, Boyne City, Cadillac, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, East Jordan, Elk Rapids, Gaylord, Harbor Springs, Leelanau County, Manistee, Marquette, Petoskey, Sault Area, and Traverse City, we are ready to show how northern Michigan is prepared to get back to business. Please feel free to reach out to our Director of Government Relations, Kirstie Sieloff, for next steps at [Kirstie.Sieloff@TraverseConnect.com](mailto:Kirstie.Sieloff@TraverseConnect.com) or (231) 313-6674.

Sincerely,



Stacie Bytwork, Chairperson  
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance



Amy Clickner, Vice Chairperson  
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance

CC: Sen. Ed McBroom  
Sen. Wayne Schmidt  
Sen. Jim Stamas  
Sen. Curt VanderWall  
Rep. Sue Allor  
Rep. Sara Cambensy  
House Speaker Lee Chatfield

House Majority Floor Leader Triston Cole  
Rep. Michele Hoytenga  
Rep. Beau LaFave  
Rep. Gregory Markkanen  
Rep. Jack O'Malley  
Rep. Daire Rendon