

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

June 3, 2020

Governor Whitmer:

Thank you for trusting northern Michigan communities to reopen safely. Our business community has worked tirelessly to protect employees and customers since you reopened retail businesses, restaurants, and bars in regions 6 & 8 on May 22. Michigan's statewide data is promising and we are encouraged by the rescission of your Safer at Home order and our entire state moving to phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan. Now that northern Michigan has proven we are able to lead by example and reopen safely, we are looking forward to our remaining closed businesses reopening and want to once again offer our communities in regions 6 & 8 as your partners in reopening.

Our businesses have taken the task of reopening seriously. Not only do we realize that northern Michigan is showcasing reopening efforts for the entire state, but we also know that the reopening of additional businesses is dependent on the success of our current efforts. The rural northern Michigan business community is eager to welcome our cinemas, fitness centers, hair salons, bowling alleys, and more, back online.

Our 16 chambers and economic development organizations across northern Michigan have worked to support our over 7,000 member businesses in adhering to state guidelines for reopening. And our businesses are innovative. Every day we hear uplifting stories of collaboration and ingenuity in retooling business models to rise above circumstance. Our communities are pulling together to encourage safe operating practices and adherence to guidelines from the public so we can stay safe to stay open.

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 move to the final phase of reopening and allow all businesses to get back to doing what they do best. Please feel free to reach out to our Director of Government Relations, Kirstie Sieloff, to coordinate with our chamber business community at 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