



Torrance County

*P.O. Box 48
205 South Ninth Street
Estancia, New Mexico 87016
505-544-4700*

April 22nd, 2020

Ryan Schwebach,
Chair
District 2

Honorable Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Javier Sanchez
Vice-Chair
District 3

Re: Reopening of Businesses in Torrance County

Kevin McCall
District 1

Dear Governor Lujan-Grisham,

Tracy Sedillo
Treasurer

The Torrance County Commission would like to thank you for your dedication, actions and leadership as we work together to combat this unprecedented pandemic that has landed in our State and our communities.

Linda Jaramillo
Clerk

As you and your cabinet work diligently to monitor and collect data to create a path forward for our state, the Commission would like to continue to communicate the importance of our state's 'stay at home' message to our citizens and businesses in our local communities.

Jesse Lucero
Assessor

Martin Rivera
Sheriff

Governor Lujan-Grisham, we know you are familiar with NM rural communities and the negative impact caused by this virus. Your office is also aware of small businesses in rural communities and their plea for help. A majority of businesses in rural communities are 'Mom and Pop' shops with a limited ability to withstand a prolonged closure and often find themselves lost in the shuffle at the request line for federal assistance. These businesses are essential to our rural communities and right now they have depleted their savings accounts and have reached the limits of their credit.

Josie Chavez
Probate Judge

Wayne A. Johnson
County Manager

Small businesses are essential to the viability of our towns and villages. They provide jobs for our citizens and tax revenue for our communities. In addition to lost revenue in our communities, we face the increased risk of having our citizens travel long distances to larger communities to obtain essential goods and services which increases the risk of COVID-19 spread in our County.

Commissioners have had lengthy conversations with business leaders and our public officials. We believe that a careful reopening of businesses in our rural communities can be achieved without increasing the risk of further infection. To that end, we would like to work with you and the Department of Health to begin to reopen businesses in our county and believe that with your help, we can do so safely.

Just like you, our top priority is the health and welfare of our citizens. In order to protect them both from the virus and financial ruin, based on the information we have, we believe May 1st should be the beginning of the path to reopening businesses, and would suggest that we should start in counties where COVID-19 spread has been minimal.

The Commission would like to thank you again for your leadership during these incredibly difficult and unexpected times. We look forward to working with you to protect our citizens and to restoring New Mexico's economy.

Respectfully,



Ryan Schwebach, Chair



Javier Sanchez, Vice Chair



Kevin McCall, Member