



April 10, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Governor Walz:

We appreciate the extremely difficult situation you are presently facing as Governor and applaud your abundant concern for the well-being of Minnesotans across this great state. However, we, the undersigned Senators and Representatives of the Minnesota Legislature, are urging you to reconsider Executive Order 20-33, Extension of Stay-at-Home Order.

As members of the Republican Rural Caucus, we stress the importance of Minnesota's diversity. This is a state of varying population densities, economies, and communities; and although all Minnesotans' day-to-day lives are being upended, the cost to rural Minnesotans is even higher relative to the risk of Covid-19.

As our rural hospitals and clinics are laying off staff due to the moratorium on elective procedures, our restaurants are shuttered, and church congregations are scattered, understand that these are not just businesses or faceless organizations - these are our neighbors, friends, classmates, parishioners, and relatives.

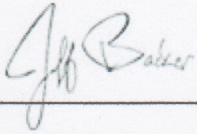
Rural communities depend on these personal relationships. Our communities understand the dangers COVID-19 pose to our neighbors and are careful to do what is necessary to protect each other. Most go above and beyond the CDC guidelines safety measures to protect their communities. We ask that you fully consider the impact an extended Stay-at-Home Order would have on not only local economies but these relationships and communities.

Furthermore, rural and urban communities have different risk profiles and should not have the same restrictions. Our neighboring midwestern states, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska, have yet to order statewide Stay-at-Home restrictions. They have issued orders based on the risks different communities face. Like Minnesota, these neighboring states have urban centers as well as rural regions and are effectively protecting lives from COVID-19 with a multifaceted approach.

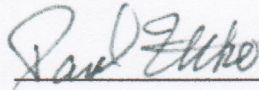
Your current extension of the Stay-at-Home Order is based on COVID-19 data and modeling that focuses on statewide cases, deaths, and ICU bed availability. This data, if broken down on a county-by-county level, undeniably shows a concentration of cases in the Metro and stress on this specific region of Minnesota. If you continue to use data as support for your executive orders, please utilize all the data you have at hand, showing rural communities have significantly fewer cases and cause for concern.

Again, we appreciate the extremely difficult situation you are presently facing and applaud your abundant concern for the wellbeing of Minnesotans across this great state, but it's time for a different approach.

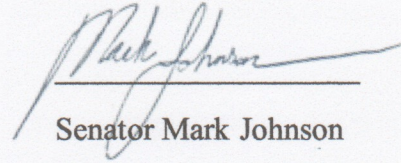
God Bless,



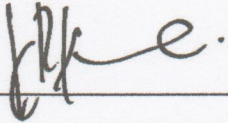
Rep. Jeff Backer



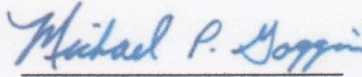
Senator Paul Utke



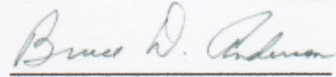
Senator Mark Johnson



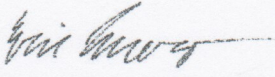
Senator John Jasinski



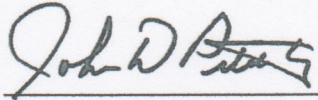
Senator Mike Goggin



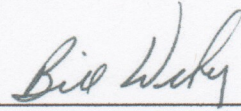
Senator Bruce Anderson



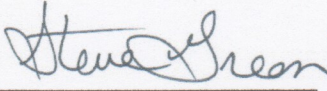
Rep. Eric Lucero



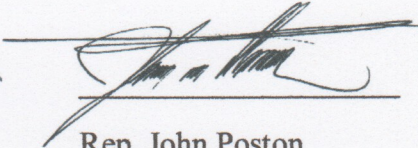
Rep. John Petersburg



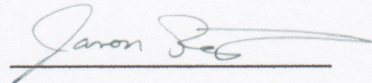
Senator Bill Weber



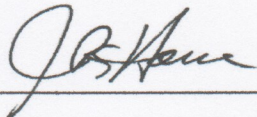
Rep. Steve Green



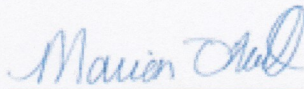
Rep. John Poston



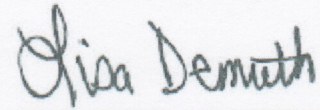
Senator Jason Rarick



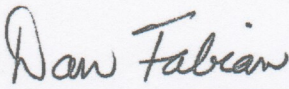
Senator Jeff Howe



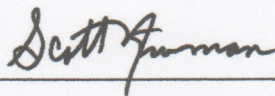
Rep. Marion O'Neill



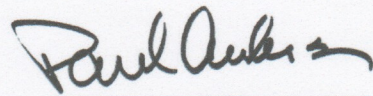
Rep. Lisa Demuth



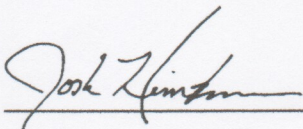
Rep. Dan Fabian



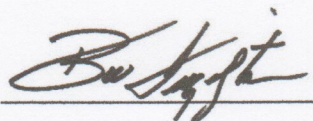
Senator Scott Newman



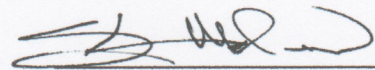
Rep. Paul Anderson



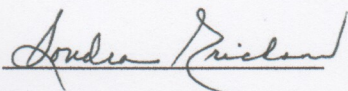
Rep. Josh Heintzeman



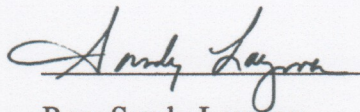
Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen



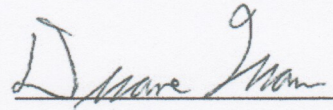
Rep. Shane Mekeland



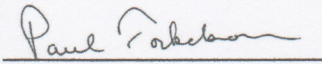
Rep. Sondra Erickson



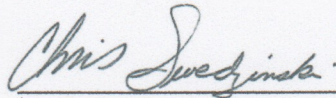
Rep. Sandy Layman



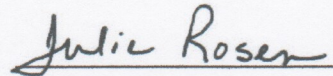
Rep. Duane Quam



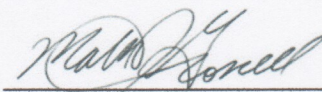
Rep. Paul Torkelson



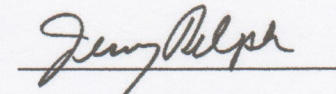
Rep. Chris Swedzinski



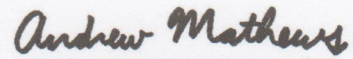
Senator Julie Rosen



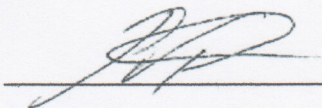
Rep. Matt Grossell



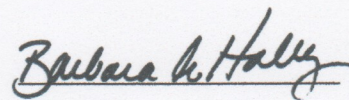
Senator Jerry Relph



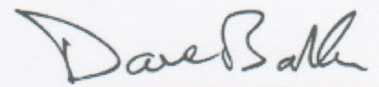
Senator Andrew Matthews



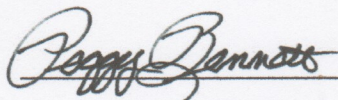
Rep. Bob Vogel



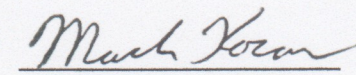
Rep. Barb Haley



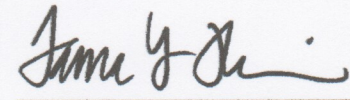
Rep. Dave Baker



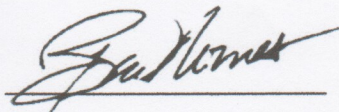
Rep. Peggy Bennett



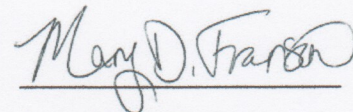
Senator Mark Koran



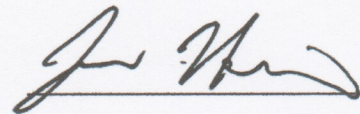
Rep. Tama Theis



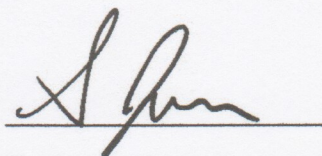
Rep. Bud Nornes



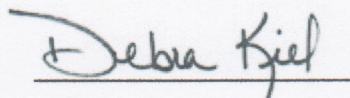
Rep. Mary Franson



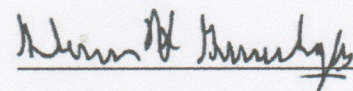
Rep. John Heinrich



Senator Scott Jensen



Rep. Debra Kiel



Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen

Dean Urdahl

Rep. Dean Urdahl

Brian Daniels

Rep. Brian Daniels
