



May 14, 2020

Livingston County Citizens
112 W. Madison St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

RE: Livingston County COVID 19 Response

Dear Citizens,

To say these are trying times would be the understatement of the century. We are faced with a divide that is like no other. I understand the pressures that businesses are facing, as well as their desire to get back to work. I understand the pressures that elected officials are facing, to do something to ease these restrictions. On the opposite side I also understand the contingent that are concerned with opening too quickly and the impact that may have.

As you may be aware, Peoria County and the City of Peoria submitted a recommendation to the Governor on what is referred to as the Heart of Illinois Plan, a Sub Regional approach to COVID 19, to which Livingston County is included. I will not speak to the merits of the plan as internally we have not all had the opportunity to fully review it. I will note that we were not made aware of this plan until it had already been submitted to the Governor as a recommendation.

What is clear is regardless of what we do, we MUST do our due diligence and we must be united. For every document that we review that challenges the Governor's order, we find another that supports it. We see many counties across the State who are challenging the Governor's order, but not one who has yet been successful. Any action our County Board takes will only be symbolic and may add to the confusion amongst business owners. Every business owner that opens risks the loss of their state license regardless of what the county says. It further risks the county's funding through FEMA and Public Health. We must weigh all these factors as well as economic, liability considerations and the health and safety of Livingston County residents prior to making any recommendation. We will not do so lightly.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Kathy Arbogast".

Kathy Arbogast, Chairman