



West Orange County Cities

Cypress, La Palma and Seal Beach

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

For almost one year, California businesses have heeded your advice to shelter-in-place and practice social distancing. While we all strive to keep Californians safe, we write today about the next phase of the state's response to COVID-19, which must also prioritize the reopening of our economy. Businesses have operated in a diminished capacity, many of them completely shutting down to adhere to the shelter in place order and other restrictive measures.

We urge you to specifically consider allowing our local restaurants to have indoor dining again. The statewide lockdown inflicted the most damage on small businesses and service workers, many of whom could least-afford the disruption. Too many restaurants have already closed their doors and we know that an analysis by the National Restaurant Association predicted 43% of California restaurants would not survive the crisis - our local restaurants need our support more now than ever.

Our small business owners serve as the backbone to our communities and provide essential jobs to our residents. We understand that at this time there are ongoing conversations among businesses, the workforce, and government on what an economic reopening strategy should look like and, as these talks progress, we ask you to consider reopening indoor dining, with all CDC guidelines in place.

We have seen that investments in outdoor dining can cost restaurants tens of thousands of dollars and many could be forced to sit empty, further damaging the restaurant's hopes of survival. We have also seen many articles that show a properly ventilated indoor dining scenario is as safe as or safer than a 4-sided outdoor tent and provides more protection for our residents.

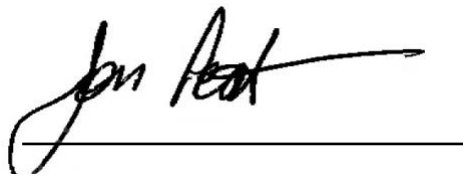
In the National Restaurant Association's 2021 State of the Restaurant Industry Report, we learned that restaurant industry sales fell by \$240 billion, more than 110,000 restaurants were closed for business temporarily or permanently, and the restaurant sector finished 2020 nearly 2.5 million jobs below its pre-coronavirus level. It is vital that we consider the social and economic impacts of job loss in California and do everything possible to avoid more businesses closing.

We write to you today as representatives of relatively small cities, many of us are largely residential communities, making these local jobs even more critical to the economic survival of

our governments and our local residents. The County of Orange has embarked on an aggressive campaign to vaccinate every resident who so desires by July 4th. To date, many of our resident have received one or both doses of the vaccine with even more on a waiting list. We urge you to consider the increasing number of individuals being vaccinated as well as the data, which shows no significant COVID transmission history at restaurants and we request that you allow indoor dining, following all CDC protocols on masks and physical distancing. How we plan to move forward with this recovery will have a dramatic effect on our economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on a solution that both provides safety for our residents and financial stability for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Peat", written over a horizontal line.

Jon Peat
Mayor, City of Cypress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nitesh Patel", written over a horizontal line.

Nitesh Patel
Mayor, City of La Palma

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Kalmick", written over a horizontal line.

Joe Kalmick
Mayor, City of Seal Beach

cc: Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
Senator Josh Newman
Orange County Board of Supervisors

City of Cypress
5275 Orange Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630