



Serving Fairview Heights, Swansea & Surrounding

4387 North Illinois Street, Suite 200 • Swansea, Illinois 62226

www.MetroEastChamber.org

September 3, 2020

Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The Metro-East Regional Chamber supports our Member businesses and would like to express our concerns over this week's tighter restrictions on Region 4 businesses. The latest restrictions penalize restaurants, bars and other businesses in the hospitality industry some of which have already been closed for six months.

We are deeply concerned by the lack of evidence that shows restaurants complying with State orders have been the ones guilty of creating the COVID spikes. Our region has had higher positivity rates in nursing homes, long term care centers and prisons, but we don't feel like our businesses should be penalized for this. These individuals are confined to their facilities and are not coming into contact with the community.

We understand that our region is unique in that we are closely located to a large city, St. Louis, in another state. Since the restrictions are tougher on our businesses than in St. Louis, more residents will cross the border for their indoor dining and entertainment. This will only get worse as the temperatures get colder and outdoor seating goes away. Obviously this will affect our positivity rate in a negative way, plus local sales tax dollars will be negatively impacted and more jobs will be lost and businesses closed permanently.

Many of the businesses in our region didn't receive relief funding and were restricted by location. These dollars are more important than ever before. We need the next round of Business Interruption Grants to be expanded so are businesses can survive.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider these mitigation measures. It is time to re-open our region and time to re-open our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kupsky".

Mark Kupsky, Mayor
City of Fairview Heights

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Leopold".

Michael Leopold, Mayor
Village of Swansea

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Collins".

Tim Collins, President
Metro-East Reg Chamber