

Jerome Delvin, District 1  
Shon Small, District 2  
James Beaver, District 3



Jerrod MacPherson  
County Administrator  
Matt Rasmussen  
Deputy County Administrator

## Board of County Commissioners

April 14, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Moratorium of Construction via Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation (20-25)

Dear Governor Inslee,

The Benton County Board of Commissioners urge you to reconsider your recent moratorium on the construction of single-family residences within Washington State. The initial proclamations issued categorized construction development as an essential business. It is the position of the Benton County Board of Commissioners that construction of single-family homes should remain an essential function during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

Within Benton County there is a significant need for affordable housing. By issuing a moratorium on development of single-family residences, it will have the effect of further distancing the affordability gap within our community. There is no doubt these are unprecedented times for our State and Nation. The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak is forecasted to have a significant impact on our local, national, and global economy. By enacting restrictions on single-family residential development, this is perpetuating the economic divide, impacting revenue sources for our constituents and local government agencies.

The Board of County Commissioners has received assurance from the development community of their ability to maintain safe social distancing practices whilst maintaining the continuity of construction services. Per the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) advisory memo provided on March 28, 2020 residential construction is a recognized essential critical infrastructure work function during the COVID-19 illness. We urge you to consider implementing an amendment to the Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation to allow for the development of single-family homes.

Sincerely,

Benton County Board of Commissioners

Jim Beaver, Chairman

Jerome Delvin, Member

Shon Small, Member