



Spokane County

OFFICE OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Josh Kerns, 1st District | Mary L. Kuney, 2nd District | Al French, 3rd District

April 6, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Spokane County Board of Commissioners implores 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 Spokane County Board of Commissioners that construction of single-family homes should remain an essential function during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

Within Spokane 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 while 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,

AL FRENCH, Chair

JOSH KERNS, Vice Chair

MARY L. KUNEY, Commissioner

cc: Spokane Media Distribution, KHQ, KXLY, KREM, Spokesman Review, Pacific Northwest Inlander