

VIA E-MAIL

April 27, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers,

Thank you for your response to our letter of Thursday, April 23, 2020. It is clear that effort and thought was put into your response, and we are pleased about the thoroughness of some answers.

We are glad that the state is now releasing “recovery” data as we suggested. Similarly, we appreciate that state parks and boat launches are largely reopened. We also are pleased that you may have reversed your decision requiring 14-straight days of fewer cases as a gating criteria. As you will see below, given the moving target on this subject, we ask for certainty on this particular point.

Unfortunately, some of the most important questions were left unanswered. In addition, your answers have also led to some additional questions that really must be answered to prevent an even greater economic and societal calamity in Wisconsin. We appreciate your invitation to seek additional follow up information. Below are listed the questions you did not answer, and those for which we seek greater clarification.

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED

- 8- Why does Wisconsin’s “Safer at Home” order last longer than all but Virginia’s? Similarly, why does every other Midwestern state, neighboring state and “partnering” state lift their “Safer at Home” order 3-4 weeks prior to Wisconsin?

We note that on Friday, Illinois has extended its order to May 30, and Michigan until May 15. But the question still stands. Other neighboring and “partnering” states end their orders 3 weeks

prior to Wisconsin.

- 16- The evidence provided by your Department of Health Services finds that 84% of Wisconsin's COVID-19 cases and 85% of COVID-19 deaths come from 9 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, and that most of these counties are located in southeastern Wisconsin. What is the rationale for keeping the remaining 63 counties and 4 million people homebound and out of work given their miniscule infection rate?

We recognize that you claim to answer this question along with your response to Questions #3 and 4, however, the subject of regionalization as clearly indicated by this question is not addressed in your response. We also point you to [this New York Times website](#), which shows that 53 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have shown a downward trajectory for a week or greater, or infection rates so small that determining a "trajectory" is statistically impossible or insignificant.

- 17- President's Trump's plan to reopen the American economy allows for regionalization. Yours does not. Why does your plan not allow for regionalization?

- 18- President Trump's plan to reopen the American economy called for a 14-day downward trajectory in positive COVID-19 cases or a 14-day downward trajectory of positive COVID-19 tests as a percentage of total tests taken. Until Monday, April 27, you repeatedly described your plan as requiring 14 straight days of decreasing positive tests and a 14-day downward trajectory of positive COVID-19 tests as a percentage of total tests taken. On Monday, Secretary-Designee Palm stated the criteria is a trajectory and not consecutive days. For clarification purposes, is the gating criteria 14 straight days of decreasing total infections or a 14-day trajectory?

In the above questions, we recognize that you answered claiming you are following President Trump's guidelines. Both of these questions are in relation to direct aspects of your plan which do NOT follow President Trump's guidelines. We would still like answers to these questions.

CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

In your answer to Question #2 you state: "The Johns Hopkins Infectious Disease Dynamics (JHU-IDD) methods suggest that, without the Safer at Home interventions, Wisconsin would experience at least three-fold excess deaths and a six-fold higher number of patients needing beds than Wisconsin hospitals can provide."

1. Is JHU-IDD and/or DHS using the same modeling predicted that Wisconsin would see 22,000 cases and between 440-1,500 deaths before April 8?

The second bullet point in your answer to Question #2 states: “The timing of a substantial late peak will be determined by the lifting of the Safer-At-Home order and comprehensive testing. Three scenarios (1 month, 2 months and 3 months) for lifting Safer at Home reveal a similarly shaped and substantial peak that would dramatically overflow hospital resources.”

2. Given the anticipated “similarly shaped and substantial peak that would dramatically overflow hospital resources” no matter the length of the “Safer-at-Home” order, isn’t it reasonable to assume that “Safer at Home” is not accomplishing your stated goal of preventing the overwhelming of our hospital resources, but only delaying it?
3. Similarly, other states and countries (both those with early lockdowns and those who delayed) have already had their peak of COVID-19 cases. Why do you anticipate that Wisconsin’s peak will be substantially later?

The fourth bullet point in your answer to question #2 states “The outbreak will strain Wisconsin hospital capacity during the summer months in the absence of Safer at Home”

4. Given this statement, and the presence of the currently unused “Alternative Care Facility” on the fairgrounds, is it your intention to cancel this year’s Wisconsin State Fair? When will you make that announcement?
5. Similarly, given the above, and the lack of regionalization in your Badger Bounce Back plan, are you planning on prohibiting county fairs? When you will make that announcement?
- 7- Your response to Question #10 appears to indicate you are considering keeping schools closed in the fall “while awaiting the production and distribution of a pandemic vaccine”. Is this true?

Thank you for your thorough response to Questions #21 through #23. We are alarmed, however, by the economic data you provided indicating that 29% of private-owned businesses are closed and that 724,000 employees are currently not working. Even more distressing is the WEDC/UW-Oshkosh study that indicates 35% of businesses may be forced to permanently close if the Safer at Home order continues much further. Given the ratio you cite, a 29% closure rate equaling 724,000 employees, a 35% closure rate would equal 875,000 employees.

- 8- Do you believe the WEDC/UW-Oshkosh study is accurate?
- 9- What steps are you taking now to proactively preserve those 875,000 jobs and employers?

10- What does the Department of Workforce Development and/or the Department of Revenue believe will be the loss in GDP and tax revenue to Wisconsin?

Question #22 addressed the 20/20 loan program, and we appreciate your direct answer to that question. We have one follow-up question.

11. Many, and perhaps a majority of small businesses were unable to access the initial 20/20 program because eligibility was restricted to those that had previously worked with CDFIs. Why was this criteria selected?

Again, thank you for your response to our previous letter, and the invitation for additional, follow-up questions. Thank you in advance for your response to this letter by Monday, May 4.

Sincerely,



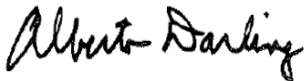
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2st District



Kathy Bernier
23rd District



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28th District



Alberta Darling
8th District



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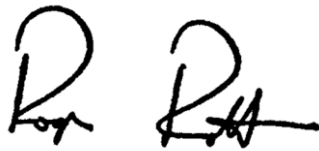
Chris Kapenga
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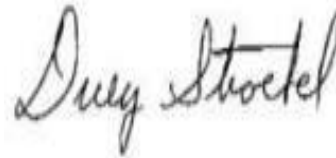
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