

California Legislature

October 1, 2020

Chairman Brian Veerkamp
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Chairman Veerkamp:

In these trying times, the disconnect between the state government in Sacramento and our way of life in Northern California has never been more painfully clear. The extended State of Emergency has destroyed even the appearance of representative government and left our communities as mere subjects of overreaching state power.

As we now enter the seventh month of the State of Emergency, with no end in sight, it is time to consider every legal and political lever at our disposal to restore representative democracy for our citizens. We take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously but our response to the threat must be one that is undertaken through free and representative government. This has not been the case in California.

The Governor has assumed broad powers during this open-ended emergency and through his Department of Public Health has instituted arbitrary and capricious rules that restrict and severely limit the ability of our citizens to pursue their livelihood. The education and mental health of our children languish under inadequate distance learning when our schools could be safely re-opened. The metrics have changed several times, yet each time have worked against counties like ours.

All of this has been done by the dictates of one man and a select group of bureaucrats. There has been no representative government. In fact, despite our protests, our Legislature has been complicit and failed to provide any check against this gross abuse of power. Worst of all, the Governor's machinations have been guided by politics and the influence of Sacramento special interests more than public health and the well-being of our citizens. We will call it exactly what it is: an autocracy, and not a benevolent one.

To keep compliance with this assumed autocratic rule, the Governor threatens our counties into compliance with his undemocratic rules by refusing to release federal CARES Act dollars earmarked to support our counties during this pandemic. He also threatens to withhold vital realignment dollars to support public safety and health in our counties. He sends state agents to threaten and fine our businesses. Our small businesses languish, and our unemployed citizens are forced to suffer under an incompetent EDD that fails to pay their entitled benefits.

In such times, it is incumbent upon us as elected leaders to guard the freedom and representative democracy that are the fundamental part of the social contract between our people and the State of California. In that light, we are holding a conference of North State representatives to be held on October 29th. At this conference, delegates from each county will seek common ground on topics such as the re-opening of the economy and our civic life, the re-opening of our schools, and actions in response to the State of California's threat to withhold entitled funds of the counties.

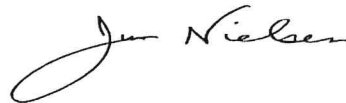
We request that you appoint a delegate with the appropriate authorization to attend the October 29th conference and consider these topics.

Together let us continue to lead our people through these trying times. To notify us of your selection to the conference, please email juleah.cordi@asm.ca.gov. All conference details will be sent to the appointed delegate in the coming weeks.

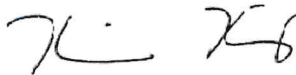
Sincerely,



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblymember, 3rd District



JIM NIELSEN
Senator, District 4



KEVIN KILEY
Assemblymember, 6th District



BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, District 1



MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblymember, 1st District

CC:

John Hidahl, County Supervisor
Shiva Frentzen, County Supervisor
Lori Parlin, County Supervisor
Sue Novasel, County Supervisor
Don Ashton, County Administrative Office
Kim Dawson, Board Clerk