



Washington State Legislature

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Governor Inslee,

I am writing today asking you to open up our state lands to the public. Most outdoor activities can be done in a safe manner. It also provides mental health benefits for the people of our state.

Fishing, hiking, walking, and other recreational activities have a high degree of social distancing. These activities can be safely done while promoting hand washing and a reminder of maintaining distance. We are in the middle of spring and people desperately want to partake and enjoy our beautiful outdoors. What better time to open our public lands than on Earth Day?

There will also be health benefits for our state. It is important to stop the spread of the virus and addressing mental health is critical as well. Many who suffer from PTSD and other severe trauma would benefit from this greatly. This request comes at a time when mental health counselors are reporting sharp spikes of depression and anxiety from prolonged isolation. Unfortunately, calls to the National Suicide Hotline are up 800% too.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luanne".

Luanne Van Werven
State Representative, 42nd District