



Washington State Legislature

Feb. 11, 2021

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002 Olympia,
WA 98504-0002

Dear Gov. Inslee,

Thank you for advancing five more regions to Phase 2 today. This is very welcome news to most of the state of Washington.

We are very concerned Kittitas County is grouped in the South Central Region and not moving into Phase 2. Kittitas County is geographically and culturally separate from the rest of the South Central Region. The Kittitas Valley is really its own region and separates itself from the rest of the state. The lifestyle and culture are unique and different than the surrounding areas, populated by people with a want and need to get back to work attitude and mentality.

Kittitas County meets or exceeds all the metrics you have put forth for a region to advance into the next phase. In a conversation with Dr. Mark Larson from the Kittitas County Health Department this evening he shared with me the following information that they meet or exceed:

- the 10% decreasing trend in new COVID cases;
- the 30% Intensive Care Unit (ICU) occupancy rate with no COVID patients in ICU;
- the 40% decrease in COVID hospital admission rates; and
- a test positivity rate of 6.9%.

These are outstanding numbers and the citizens of Kittitas County have achieved these results because of a motivated community that has truly worked hard to get the COVID numbers under control. There is a community effort to maintain social distancing, the wearing of masks and taking this virus seriously. To not move Kittitas County into Phase 2 is punishment to the citizens of Kittitas County for a job well done.

Gov. Inslee, we implore you to move Kittitas County out of the South Central Region and either into the North Central Region or create a region of their own.

They have followed the advice and science and done an outstanding job working to control this virus, they deserve nothing less.

Governor, we respectfully request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss this most serious matter in further detail. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District



Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



Representative Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District

Cc:

Dr. Mark Larson, Kittitas County Health Department
Cory Wright, Kittitas County Commissioner, District 1
Laura Osiadacz, Kittitas County Commissioner, District 2
Brett Wachsmith, Kittitas County Commissioner, District 3
Clay Myers, Kittitas County Sheriff
Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor

