



ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MICHAEL B. COOPER
PARISH PRESIDENT

September 4, 2020

Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time for our State and our citizens. As the leader of the fourth largest Parish in the State of Louisiana, I come to you with a few items for your consideration.

As you are well aware, COVID-19 has created hardships on several levels for our citizens, emotionally, financially and health-wise. I have said since the start of our emergency response to this pandemic, that I want to balance the health of our community with the health of our economy. With the achievement of this balance in mind, I am writing to respectfully ask that you consider the enactment of COVID-19 recovery phases and restrictions on a regional basis in lieu of the current statewide implementation. I also ask that you provide the criteria for entering Phase 3 to myself, and all Parish leaders throughout the State, so that we as Parish leaders can base our phased re-opening decisions on these criteria.

The management of the COVID -19 crisis on a statewide basis has created consequential hardships for St. Tammany Parish businesses and residents. Unfortunately, numerous businesses throughout St. Tammany are suffering grave financial distress with many citizens unemployed and individuals threatened with personal bankruptcy.

It is my desire to move St. Tammany Parish forward into Phase 3 of recovery while maintaining all of the required safety protocols such as masks, social distancing, sanitation and personal hygiene. I thank you for your timely consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell at (985)966-2024.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Cooper", written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

MBC/mb