



The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

The City of Genoa is located in the North East corner of DeKalb County (Region 1). We are a non-home rule community of approximately 5,200 residents. As you may or may not know, the life blood of the rural communities are the small businesses such as taverns, restaurants, coffee shops etc.- usually family run and sometimes passed down through generations.

It's no secret that folks move to the smaller communities looking for a safe environment to raise their families- an environment, which often reminds them of yesteryear. Some folks are born and raised in these communities and remain due to their love and sense of loyalty.

I write to you in an effort to ask you to look at the current situation (pandemic) through a different lens as your current lens is providing you different information every day and different statistics garnering a different decision; open businesses, close businesses, test, don't test, percentages, etc.

Believe me nobody in town wants to get sick, but nobody wants to see businesses in town fail. What I am requesting is for you to look at innovative solutions such as the ones being applied in the private sector. My day job sees me proudly working for a Major Airline (Chicago's hometown airline). You are probably aware of Electrostatic Spraying (ESS) approved by the CDC and F.A.A. As soon as an aircraft arrives it is immediately cleaned and the ESS process takes place disinfecting the aircraft in minutes.

COVID is here to stay, at least for the immediate future; I firmly believe looking forward and managing the situation is a better alternative than the daily decision of who to close down next. It is time to innovate and utilize creative thinking in order to give our small businesses a fighting chance.

Is there a reason that a restaurant, tavern or any other small business couldn't stay open if they commit to a process such as ESS? They could close for a short duration a certain number of times throughout the day while the cleaning takes place. This is just one suggestion, I'm quite sure there are others. This lines up perfectly with the proverb "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

As Mayor I am asking you to give our small rural businesses a fighting chance to survive. Please consider a different approach; give these hardworking people, their families, and our community the tools necessary to weather this storm. I guarantee they will not let you down.

Sincerely,

Mark Vicary
Mayor

Police Department

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
(815) 784-6633 • Fax (815) 784-2951

Municipal Center

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
(815) 784-2327 • Fax (815) 784-2988

Public Works

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
(815) 784-2271 • Fax (815) 784-4271