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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JASON M. SHEPPARD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

April 14, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

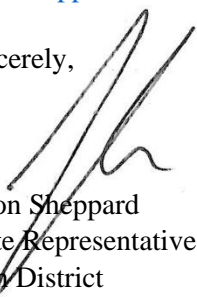
As you know, Executive Order 2020-21 directed businesses deemed non-essential to cease in-person work. I'm sure your office, like mine, has been inundated with requests from numerous "non-essential" businesses who are looking for exemptions.

One of those businesses, which I have first-hand experience in, is the real estate industry. There are hundreds of real estate transactions pending and new listings coming on the market daily. While your administration has allowed some deals to close, the current situation we are in has put homeowners and businesses into further distress. Our neighboring states, like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin all allow for some basic in-person real estate functions to continue. Furthermore, the federal government recognizes real estate as being critical to the operations of the country in the recent Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Administration.

Just to be clear, with technology, the real estate industry has opportunities to conduct a large portion of their functions virtually or digitally; however, some in-person meetings are still needed. Real estate agents should be able to conduct, in a limited manner, these in-person meetings, while taking into consideration the safety of our community.

In reviewing your decision and the limits you have imposed on Michigan businesses, I hope you will allow for some restrictions to be lifted. Specially, I hope you will look closely at the real estate industry and consider their enormous value to our state and economy and allow for some limited in-person meetings. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at jasonsheppard@house.mi.gov.

Sincerely,


Jason Sheppard
State Representative
56th District