



# City of Battle Ground

City Hall • Executive Department

109 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 221 • Battle Ground, WA • (360) 342-5000 • [www.cityofbg.org](http://www.cityofbg.org)

May 7, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee,

We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has not only claimed lives but also created financial ruin. We appreciate your efforts and leadership in dealing with the pandemic, but I fear that the efforts are not sufficient to deal with the fallout. Our local economy is suffering. Businesses are closing for good, and those that are attempting to remain open are faced with escalating debt and no clear idea when things will return to “normal”. We recognize the significant public health concerns around COVID-19 and we continue to advocate for sensible measures to help mitigate those health impacts on our community.

However, staying the course will cause more Washingtonians to lose jobs, lose their ability to pay for basic needs to support their families, and will undoubtedly create irreversible impacts that will far out live the pandemic. We recognize that the fear of the unknown is driving many decisions, and we also recognize that it is difficult to govern the entire state as one unit. But the fact remains that Washington is comprised of many unique communities that are far different from King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. A “one size fits all” approach will cause needless financial harm to residents and businesses.

We ask that you consider allowing local jurisdictions more flexibility in coordinating with local public health officials and regional partners to open our local economies and manage public health more effectively. We believe this can be done at the city and county levels with emphasis given to the unique issues facing those communities.

While we respect and recognize the authority of the Governor to issue state wide mandates, we also ask that you respect and recognize the local jurisdiction’s ability to make these important decisions based upon the individual needs of the community. As a fellow elected official, I am also responsible to the residents of Battle Ground, and it is my sincere desire to address their needs and concerns while following local guidance.

The health concerns around COVID-19 are real but so is the financial welfare of our citizens. We believe that our knowledge of the local community in conjunction with our responsibility to provide public safety, will result in a reasonable and responsible approach for Battle Ground.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We wish you well and respect the difficult task that you’re dealing with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adrian Cortes".

Adrian Cortes  
Mayor