



Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

July 20, 2020

Governor Abbott,

The need to slow the spread of COVID-19s is obvious; however, it is within every Texan's right to seek gainful employment. Furthermore, it is within every business owner's right to operate in a responsible manner. With your Executive Order GA-28, you have effectively prohibited over 800,000 Texans the ability to provide for their families. Certainly, there were individual establishments that were not heeding the safety protocols that would allow them to operate safely, but to paint all such establishments with the same broad stroke is unreasonable.

Moreover, by singling out the bar/winery industry segment, you have crippled a vibrant component of our economy that extends beyond this specific industry. The manufacturing component of craft breweries and wineries is critical draw/attraction for the tourism industry as well. With this second shutdown of bars/wineries, you have condemned many of these facilities to permanent closure – thereby issuing further damage to an already distressed tourism industry.

Therefore, as the premier business advocacy group for Midland, Texas, we urge you to reverse this decision, and allow these establishments to operate within the same guidelines as other comparable industries (restaurants). Rather than punish an entire segment, establish measures that penalize those that willfully disregard the necessary safety standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bobby Burns', is written over a white background.

Bobby Burns
President & CEO
Midland Chamber of Commerce



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