



Village of Elk Rapids

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Dear Governor Gretchen Whitmer,

April 6, 2020

People arriving in Elk Rapids from across the country and state opening their vacation homes this early is a once-in-a-lifetime event; housing activity rivals that of Independence Day and Harbor Days. At any other time, this would be cause for celebration, but right now it is not.

People arriving here are not busy self-isolating. They are busy in our grocery and hardware stores and gas stations, increasing risk for our vulnerable population,* in a county with no ICU beds, and limited regional medical resources. Parks and trails are bustling, from children playing on closed equipment to vacationers mingling with friends they haven't seen for months. Propane companies are overwhelmed with service requests for second homes.

By allowing people a **one-time** choice between their first and second homes, and banning future travel between homes, you would emerge as a gubernatorial leader, balancing smart statistics with personal freedoms. I stand ready to back you on such a measure and to support your leadership with our state legislature.

I pray for your wisdom and strength as the burden of making daily life and death policy decisions weighs upon you.

Sincerely,

Village President James Janisse

*Elk Rapids Village demographics are the oldest in NW Michigan, which is older than the State of Michigan, which is also more elderly than the nation.

cc: State Senator Wayne Schmidt
State Representative Triston Cole
State Representative Jack O'Malley