



# Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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Robert Hutchinson, *Chair*  
Mike Byerly, *Vice Chair*  
Charles S. Chestnut, IV  
Ken Cornell  
Marihelen Wheeler

**Administration**  
Michele L. Lieberman  
*County Manager*

May 6, 2020

[GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com)

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis  
Office of Governor - State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your efforts to safely open up Florida. We understand there is a delicate balance between getting our citizens back to work and at the same time keeping them safe.

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, I'm writing to request that you consider providing Florida's counties with the authority to permit low risk businesses and activities within their communities the ability to resume when determined by the County that sufficient standards are in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the employees and the community.

In the alternative, we would request that manufacturers, whose products were not deemed essential by the State, would be provided the ability to restart operations immediately. Alachua County has one such major manufacturer that we believe could comply with all CDC and OSHA guidelines, as well as any industry specific standards for the operation of their facility. At its recent meeting, the Alachua County Commission voted unanimously to request you allow all low risk manufacturing to resume.

We are appreciative of the careful thought and consideration you have placed in your decisions regarding the reopening of Florida. However, with so many different types of businesses and activities, we believe it is Florida's counties who are uniquely qualified to evaluate those businesses and activities within their jurisdictions to determine which are low risk and can operate with sufficient safeguards in place.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Robert Hutchinson, Chair  
Alachua County Commission  
Chr20.050

CC: Board of County Commissioners  
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager  
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney