



**Shaun C. Van Doren**  
Director  
County of Hunterdon  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
71 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Flemington, NJ 08822

[Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us)



**Sylvia Petillo**  
Director  
County of Sussex  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
One Spring Street  
Newton, NJ 07860

[spetillo@sussex.nj.us](mailto:spetillo@sussex.nj.us)



**Richard D. Gardner**  
Director  
County of Warren  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
165 County Road, 519 South  
White Twp., NJ 07823

[rgardner@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:rgardner@co.warren.nj.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director**

[Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

**Sylvia Petillo, Freeholder Director**

[spetillo@sussex.nj.us](mailto:spetillo@sussex.nj.us)

**Richard Gardner, Freeholder Director**

[rgardner@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:rgardner@co.warren.nj.us)

## **Northwest Jersey Freeholder Boards Say Regional Re-opening Should Be Allowed Provide A Gateway To Re-opening Resources**

The Boards of Chosen Freeholders in Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties have called on Governor Phil Murphy to allow for a regional re-opening of businesses in New Jersey's northwest corner and announced the creation of a 'Gateway to Resources for Business Re-opening' website that provides the latest information on the best practices for commercial re-openings.

In a joint communication to the Governor, Freeholder Board Directors Shaun C. Van Doren of Hunterdon County, Richard D. Gardner of Warren County, and Sylvia Petillo of Sussex County, stated, "All of our Freeholder colleagues agree that the state should authorize a segmented approach that allows for the public health conditions within our region to permit a speedy re-opening of businesses in Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren Counties."

The Freeholder Directors are letting state officials know that "People want to go back to work and earn their paychecks, and our businesses in the northwest corner of New Jersey are ready to operate. This website, [www.HunterdonWarrenSussex.com](http://www.HunterdonWarrenSussex.com) will provide information that can help local businesses protect the health of customers and employees, as they plan to re-open."

The Freeholder Directors added, "As counties that have not received any direct Federal or State funds during this pandemic it is essential that our businesses be permitted to reopen using the existing measures already authorized and implemented for essential retail and limited non-essential retail businesses. The Gateway to Resources website can lead the way."

**"Ensuring Our Quality of Life Now and for the Future"**



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One Spring Street  
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**Richard D. Gardner**  
**Director**

County of Warren  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
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White Twp., NJ 07823

[rgardner@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:rgardner@co.warren.nj.us)

Earlier in the month, the three Freeholder Boards joined together to encourage the development of information for business re-openings.

The Gateway to Resources website includes, in an easy to use format, a compendium of the best practices for re-opening various commercial enterprises, a listing of financial resources available to businesses, and state and federal directives and resources.

Advice on protecting the health of customers and employees provided by the CDC and OSHA, as well as industry specific recommendations and guidelines for safe re-openings, are included in the guidance resources.

“To save the economy, business entities must re-open, however it must be done safely. We encourage businesses to look to this website as a one stop information hub. It will be continually updated.

We also encourage businesses and residents to consider signing onto the ‘Unlock NJ Petition’, [www.gopetition.com/petitions/unlock-new-jersey.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/unlock-new-jersey.html), sponsored by our Morris County colleagues. We need to send the message to the Governor that northwest New Jersey has had enough, it’s time to get back to work,” the Freeholder Directors said in a joint statement.