 **TOWN OF BRIDGTON**

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**Board of Selectmen**

June 12, 2020

Heather Johnson, Commissioner

Department of Economic & Community Development

59 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0059

RE: Re-Opening Bridgton

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

At a recent Board of Selectmen Meeting, owners of local restaurants shared their concerns regarding the financial toll to their employees and themselves of having to continue to keep their establishments closed to indoor seating. Insult was added to injury when having geared up to open on June 1, they were told they could not simply by virtue of being a part of Cumberland County.

You may not be familiar with Bridgton, but geographically and economically, it resembles Oxford County more than Cumberland County. Perhaps most importantly, there have been only two (2) reported cases.

Bridgton is the poorest town in Cumberland County. The restaurant segment of our economy is, or was before the shutdown, one of our strongest economic engines providing employment for many of our residents. To allow similar businesses in the next town to open is a bitter economic pill to swallow.

It is our hope that you will take into consideration our plea and allow Bridgton to immediately open. We trust our business owners, who are also our friends and neighbors, to follow the guidelines to keep their employees and customers safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Liston Eastman, Chair Bridgton Board of Selectmen

Cc: Governor Janet Mills

 Senator James Hamper

 Representative Walter Riseman