

FRANK BURNS, MEMBER  
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
535 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15906  
(814) 536-8400  
FAX: (814) 533-2368  
119 S. CENTER STREET  
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15931  
(814) 472-8021  
FAX: (814) 472-1965  
112-A MUNSTER ROAD  
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946  
(814) 736-7339 OR (814) 736-6452  
FAX: (814) 736-3233



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
325 MAIN CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 202072  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2072  
(717) 772-8056  
FAX: (717) 772-9965

COMMITTEES

NORTHWEST DELEGATION, CHAIRMAN  
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TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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April 27, 2020

Secretary Rachel Levine  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor West, Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

RE: Requesting Cambria County to Reopen with the Southcentral Region

Dear Dr. Levine:

I write today to request that Cambria County be reclassified into the Southcentral region when considering who can safely begin reopening their economies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I explained Friday during our briefing, I am concerned that Cambria County, which has had just 21 cases to date, is included in a region with major population centers that have been hard hit by the coronavirus. Cambria County's case numbers are far more akin to Bedford and Blair counties in the Southcentral region, both of which also have had just 21 cases. Residents in my district are more likely to work or shop in these neighboring counties than in Allegheny or Westmoreland, which further bolsters the case for our addition to the Southcentral region.

I understand the department has used the Bureau of Community Health Systems map to divide Pennsylvania into six health regions for many years. As you so often note, however, this is a "novel" coronavirus – it is new and unprecedented. As such, I believe reconfiguring new health regions specifically for the phased reopening of our state would better serve the residents of Cambria County.

I am eager to see Cambria County businesses safely begin to reopen when it's appropriate, so I urge you to reclassify Cambria with its more similar neighbors rather than holding us back because other counties will recover more slowly.

Sincerely,

Frank Burns  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

Cc: Mr. Mike Brunelle, Chief of Staff, Gov. Tom Wolf  
Mr. Dennis Davin, Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development