



U.S. House of Representatives



City of Vancouver

April 20, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

We are writing to call your attention to potentially life-saving and job-preserving work being conducted in Clark County.

Businesses throughout the state and nation desperately need to reopen soon to avoid permanent closure, and all of us want to get back to our normal lives as soon as possible. However, we also recognize the difficulty in safeguarding health and restoring public confidence to return to offices, restaurants, retail, and other service industries without widespread, easily-available testing that allows health authorities to quickly detect and isolate COVID-19 cases.


Molecular Testing Labs in Vancouver reports to us that it already has the capacity to run tests for COVID-19 using the nasopharyngeal and oral pharyngeal tests and is days away from developing saliva tests similar to the tests developed at Rutgers University in New Jersey approved by the FDA last week. Test samples can be collected by patients with minimal contact from health care professionals. The process is much simpler and requires far less use of personal protection equipment than current test methods, and results can be obtained in 24-48 hours.

These tests have the potential to jumpstart our efforts to safely reopen our economy and return our citizens to their regular lives. Should they gain FDA approval in the coming days, we encourage you to strongly consider a demonstration project using this technology and strict social distancing guidelines to re-authorize work in a segment of the economy in Southwest Washington. The residential construction industry appears to be a good candidate for this sort

of approach. Assuming this project is successful, it could be quickly rolled out to other segments of the economy.

These have been difficult times for all of us, but we are hopeful that solutions are close to hand. We appreciate your hard work and dedication on behalf of the people we serve and stand ready to work with you to return our state to its normal condition.

Sincerely,



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress (WA-03)



Anne McEnery-Ogle
Mayor, City of Vancouver