



Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor of New York State
 NYS Capitol Building
 Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Thanks to your leadership, our frontline medical workers, our essential businesses, and their employees, as well as the millions of New Yorkers who have stayed home over the last month, the state can now consider reopening our economy.

It will not be easy, and the business community looks forward to working with all branches of government to help guide us through the next phase of this pandemic. We understand that this process will be iterative, and we are committed to making the reopening as safe as possible for our employees and customers.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 knows no boundaries. It does not heed warning signs. It does not stop at the door. Medical experts tell us the virus will be with us for years to come. Until there is a vaccine, opening our economy presents risks. Every retailer, every restaurant, every movie theatre, and every school undertakes some risk by opening their doors.

Regardless of any precautions, when customers and employees begin to move in and out of our businesses again, these risks are unavoidable. New York must recognize this and enact meaningful liability protections to ensure our economy is not further devastated by COVID-related lawsuits during the recovery.

We, the business and tourism community of New York, urge you to enact liability protections related to COVID-19. If employers are operating in good faith and are in accordance with applicable statutes, rules, executive orders and approved sector-specific restart plans, they must be protected. Only then can we recover, thrive, and heal.

Respectfully,

Associated General Contractors of New York

American Property Casualty Insurance Association

Big I NY

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Business Council of New York State

CenterState CEO

Food Industry Alliance

Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

National Federation of Independent Business

New York Association of Convenience Stores

NYC Hospitality Alliance

New York Insurance Association

New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association

New York State Restaurant Association

New York State Tourism Industry Association

Partnership for New York City

Real Estate Board of New York

Unshackle Upstate

CC: New York Forward Reopening Advisory Board
New York State Legislature