Dear Members,

First, I want to take a moment to say thanks to all who have reached out and responded after I send these emails. It’s so appreciated. Our team is remote but working harder than ever to serve our community during this time of need. Please continue to ask questions and let us know how we can help – it’s directing our work. I’ve also been gratified to hear that my closing comments at the end of them have been striking a chord with people. It’s a little unusual to sit at home with my dog and write these, so it’s nice to know they are helpful! Now, on with today’s show...

**Phase 3 of Federal Stimulus**

No doubt you have heard about the massive federal stimulus package moving through Congress right now. It passed the Senate last night, and is due to be voted on by the House tomorrow. It’s huge – 2 Trillion dollars + huge. And it has a lot of things in it that will be important to our businesses. The [US Chamber has a great breakdown of what is currently in there which you can read here](https://www.uschamber.com/news-and-events/press-releases/2020-03-26-us-chamber-of-commerce-issues-breakdown-of-federal-stimulus-package). To be honest, I’m still trying to work through it myself, but I know there will be very helpful things in there. We will continue to push out more about this as it becomes available (there will be lots more detail soon).

In fact, the US Chamber is hosting a National Town Hall virtually about this tomorrow, Friday, March 27th from 12-1pm. You can [register here](https://www.uschamber.com/events/2020-03-27-national-town-hall-virtually-on-the-federal-stimulus-package).

**Voting in Ohio**

As you may have heard, the General Assembly has put a plan in place to allow Ohioans to continue to vote by mail until April 28th. Don’t lose your voice! Be sure to vote! You can download the request form at [voteohio.gov](https://voteohio.gov) or of course you may call the Richland County Board of Elections at (419) 774-5530.

**Taxes**

Now, both the Federal and State Government have moved the federal/state tax filing deadline from April 15 to July 15th in light of the crisis.

**Ohio General Assembly Package**

The bill passed in the General Assembly also did several other important things to assist the State through this time. Here is [an article about it](https://www.cleveland.com/ohio/x-Ohio%20General%20Assembly%20package%20contains%20several%20important%20things.html). Here is a [press release by](https://www.ohioliquor.com/about-us/news/press-releases/2020-03-26-ohio-general-assembly-package-contains-several-important-things) Representative Romanchuk with highlights.

**Stay at Home Order**

Again, the Lt. Governor addressed the [Stay at Home Order](https://www.ohioliquor.com/about-us/news/press-releases/2020-03-26-ohio-general-assembly-package-contains-several-important-things) today in the press conference, again calling on business owners to look carefully at what they have laid out and to have their rationale ready if/when someone asks. If you are essential, then you are **required** to provide a safe working environment for your employees as outlined in item #15 in the [Director’s Order](https://www.ohioliquor.com/about-us/news/press-releases/2020-03-26-ohio-general-assembly-package-contains-several-important-things). Please ensure you are following those rules. You could be questioned if you are not doing this. Please comply.


BOTTOM LINE – the goal of the order is to flatten the curve and lower the surge our hospitals and frontline care workers will see in the coming weeks. Please do everything you can to help protect them.

**Talk to your team of advisors**
I know that this is a scary time for business owners. Some of you are closed completely, some are only online, some of you are open but with significant revenue losses. Just a friendly reminder – please don’t be in fear alone. You should be talking to your “trusted team” – your banker, your lawyer, your accountant, your insurance agent, etc. All the people you have assembled to help you build your business – they are here to help you get through it. If you don’t feel that you have a ‘trusted team’ let’s chat because we have some great members that could help.

Census 2020
You may wonder, why am I talking about the Census right now? Well, because it’s vitally important. It’s probably more important than ever that we get an accurate count in Richland County of our population. The Federal Government distributes billions of dollars based on population counts for things such as schools, hospitals, transportation, road/bridges/infrastructure, social services and more. The number of elected representatives we have in Congress is based on our count! Here’s a little video I recorded about why it’s important. Please participate if you haven’t already done so. You should have received your invitation at home in the mail. And encourage your employees to participate, too! Be a part of the #RichlandCounts movement!

Final Thoughts...
We’re #InThisTogetherOhio! Today I want to give a shout out to our amazing local medical facilities – the hospitals, nursing homes, home health companies, hospice organizations, emergency responders, Richland Public Health, and others who are serving on the front lines. Pictured below are people from the OhioHealth & Avita Emergency Rooms. We’re Staying at Home to help protect them and many others. If you think your actions aren’t making a difference, just remember these courageous folks who are out there FOR US!

We will get through this! Let us know how we can help.
#RichlandCountySTRONG

Onward!

Jodie

Jodie A. Perry, CCE, IOM, CCEO-AP
President & CEO
Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development

Richland Area Chamber COVID-19 Resource Page
Richland County Restaurants Offering Take Out List
Ohio Chamber COVID-19 Resource Page