

**DOYLE HEFFLEY, MEMBER
122ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

PO BOX 202122
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2122
PHONE: (717) 260-6139
FAX: (717) 772-8418

204-B BRIDGE STREET
WEISSPORT, PA 18235
PHONE: (610) 377-6363
FAX: (610) 377-5675

2681 STATE ROUTE 903, UNIT 3
ALBRIGHTSVILLE, PA 18210
PHONE: (570) 722-8700
FAX: (570) 722-8702



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING
3 WEST RIDGE STREET
LANSFORD, PA 18232
WEDNESDAY 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
HUMAN SERVICES
TOURISM &
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPEMENT
TRANSPORTATION

March 30, 2020

The Hon. Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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

The Hon. Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
225 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governors Wolf, Cuomo and Murphy,

I write to you today to echo my colleague Rosemary Brown's urgent request for a public statement and action regarding short-term rentals in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

I also have deep concerns over this issue especially where it regards the Air B&B industry in our region of the Commonwealth. At this time many of these properties in our area are being utilized as a "getaway" for New York and New Jersey residents. The healthcare infrastructure in my district will be severely compromised by an influx of these visitors, particularly those from areas of the highest virus infection rates, and will not be able to keep up, even as the infection rates rise in our own population.

While I understand that New York and New Jersey residents own properties in Carbon County, particularly in the eastern part of the county, and they have moved to these properties to "weather the storm," I am concerned that they are not self-isolating for fourteen days, as they are being asked to. Communities in these areas do not have police departments, so there is no-one, save small private development security forces to enforce this self-isolation. Furthermore, some of these residents are still traveling back and forth from the communities at the epicenter of the pandemic.

The residents in my district and region are taking seriously Governor Wolf's stay-at-home order, and they deserve to know that every precaution is being taken to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to minimize the possibility of infections overwhelming their communities (everything from health systems to grocery stores). We must take action to protect them, just as Governor Murphy took action to protect shore communities where some Pennsylvania and New York residents chose to flee to homes they owned.

Like my colleague, I am asking each of you to work together to develop a plan to help end this situation for our entire tri-state area. At the very least, I urge Governor Wolf to make a public statement that can be shared with New York and New Jersey asking that their residents not travel into Pennsylvania out of social responsibility and stay home in their place of residence.

Thank you in advance for your immediate consideration of this issue, and I welcome your feedback on how we can best protect all of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doyle Heffley". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Representative Doyle Heffley
122nd Legislative District
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania