



PRESS RELEASE:

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Rep. Owens & Sen. Findley Support County Reopen Plans, Call on Governor to Act

SALEM—Following the submission of Baker County’s reopen proposal last week, the Harney County Court sent Governor Brown their plan for the gradual reopening of Harney County yesterday, and Malheur County sent theirs in today. Lake and Grant Counties are still working on their plan.

The Governor set forth criteria on April 20 that Counties needed to meet before she would consider any lifting of restrictions. She charged Counties with designing these plans in collaboration with public health, hospital, business and other sectors. These Counties have adhered to all guidelines and measures since the onset of this pandemic. The plans being presented to the Governor addresses and meet the criteria she set forth.

Phase One begins when Governor Brown approves the County’s plan, after all gating criteria and core preparedness guidelines have been met. Plans must include information on three gating criteria: a downward trajectory in COVID-like symptoms, a downward trajectory of documented positive cases, and hospital readiness to treat patients coupled with a robust testing program. All of these Counties have met these metrics.

Representative Mark Owens (R-Crane) said, “The Counties in District 60 have taken the initiative in following the process the Governor has laid out. The plans submitted to the Governor create a great outline that can be used by other counties. I support these county-specific regionalized plans because they meet all of the Governor’s reopening

metrics.”

Senator Lynn Findley (R-Vale) concluded, “I am thoroughly impressed with the preparedness of the our County Commissioners and their staff that continue to coordinate and put together these plans. We look forward to Governor Brown’s response.”

Rep. Owens and Sen. Findley both added, “Governor Brown has had the Baker County plan for a week already, but has yet to approve this plan to allow Baker County to immediately begin implementation and reopening. Our communities and small businesses are hurting, and this plan is a positive step for all. We urge the Governor to act now and do not delay this any further, please support the implementation of the process you have laid out.”

House District 60 encompasses all of Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties, and parts of Lake County.

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