



kittle's furniture

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April 17, 2020

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor of Indiana
Indiana State House
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

Re: Retail Furniture will be Ready

Dear Eric:

We at Kittle's Furniture and our fellow furniture and mattress retailers look forward to the strategic steps in reducing the "Stay at Home" restrictions and reopening not just our Indiana Economy, but our entire future way of life.

The executive orders to close businesses were entirely warranted, the prohibition of large gatherings has saved countless lives, and we thank you for your deliberate and rock-solid guidance of your Team's management of this greatest crisis of our time. But an unintended outcome of the distinction of "non-essential" and "essential" has been the hardship inflicted upon our business segment; locally owned and operated retail furniture stores.

At a time when most Hoosiers are restricted to their homes and in need of furniture to facilitate working, schooling, dining and all the activities of staying-in full-time, major national big-box and e-commerce retailers have continued to sell and deliver furniture products. This remains a clear threat to the survival and very existence of our companies and livelihood of thousands of Hoosiers we employ.

Coming in May, when the first business re-openings begin, furniture retailers should be included among them. Our large, spacious stores and modest customer traffic numbers uniquely position retail furniture to be ready and able to implement the health, safety and social distancing protocols we anticipate will be required.

Speaking for my Team at Kittle's, we have already implemented regular sanitizing and disinfecting protocols for all common areas, have hand sanitizer abundantly available for guests and employees, provide temperature screenings for our associates and practice social distancing in every area of our company. We expect there will be new occupancy limits and much, much more, and we look forward to following your direction.

For the benefit of our customers, employees and the Indiana economy at large, we request that furniture retailers be given consideration and included among the first businesses authorized to reopen.

Eric, Kittle's immediately applied to the Federal Payroll Protection Program and was one of the first Indiana retailers approved and funded. That, however, is no help until we get our stores open and bring the majority of our Team back to work. This truly is a life and death issue for Kittle's and our fellow furniture retailers in Indiana.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please call me at 1-317-727-7544 at your convenience.

