



## **DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY For the County of Carbon, Pennsylvania**

**WHEREAS**, a novel coronavirus (now known as “SARS CoV-2”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread throughout the world, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, SARS CoV-2 is known to have the potential to cause Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) in humans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern” and that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19 under the authority of 35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101, *et seq.* that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to “act as necessary to meet the current exigencies;” and

**WHEREAS**, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of affected residents in Carbon County; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa. C.S. § 7501) authorizes Carbon County to declare a disaster emergency upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Carbon County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”), pursuant to the provision of the Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Managements Services Code 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501, do hereby declare the immanency of a disaster emergency in Carbon County due to COVID-19.

**FURTHER**, the Commissioners direct the County Administrator and the County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the County’s activities of the emergency response, to work with state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this imminent disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

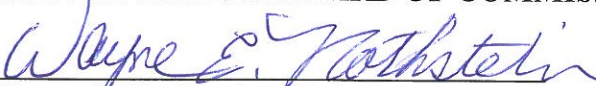
**FURTHER**, the Commissioners hereby create a COVID-19 Advisory Group to advise the County Administrator and the County Emergency Management Coordinator in response to COVID-19 that shall consist of the Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator, the County Emergency Management Coordinator, Human Resources, and the Solicitor's Office and any and all additional members as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Commissioners. This COVID-19 Advisory Group shall meet as needed in response to COVID-19 without the need to formally advertise times and places of meetings due to the exigent and evolving circumstances of this disaster, although, as time permits, every effort will be made to list the times and places of such meetings in advance on the County website.

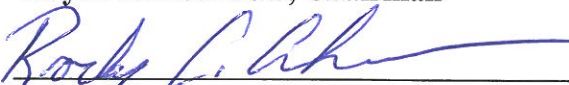
**STILL FURTHER**, the Commissioners, pursuant to 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

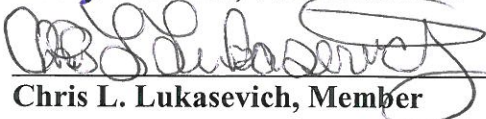
This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

**Authorized this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**

**CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne E. Nothstein, Chairman

  
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Rocky C. Ahner, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris L. Lukasevich, Member

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eloise K. Ahner, County Administrator