

From: [Lisa Zumpft](#)
To: ["Stan Smith"](#); ["Randy Aton Town Council"](#); ["Adrian Player"](#); ["Suzanne Elger"](#)
Cc: [Darci Carlson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please close the parks (Numbers are 1 week old)
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:18:23 PM

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On Apr 2, 2020, at 1:36 PM, Tammy [REDACTED] wrote:

In the difficult times that we are faced with today I am frustrated by the lack of a more proactive response to the horrendous threat that is now creeping across our nation.

As a southern Utah resident, I am appalled by the Governing bodies both State and Federal that are encouraging people to visit the National Parks and Monuments and incentivizing them to come by waiving park entrance fees.

I have heard of people who have traveled from as far away as Chicago to tour the State Parks in Utah and surrounding areas as many have viewed this time away from work and school as an additional opportunity for a vacation. Why are we not reinforcing and supporting the idea that the "work from home" and school cancellations were done to discourage the rapid spread of the virus and not designed to encourage people to travel as this spreads the virus more quickly nationally.

I ask myself if in adopting this attitude have they considered the risk that they impose on the residents of the small towns and communities that surround the parks? As people drive across the country without knowing if they have already been exposed to the virus and are incubating it without being symptomatic. As such, they risk exposing people at every gas station, restaurant, or store that they enter to the virus. They in turn will take it home to their families. Or, If they have a milder case of the virus and mistake it for "just a cold" they will certainly be exposing a multitude of people to the virus as they travel. Further risk is imposed on the residents and travelers alike during the 1 to 14 day incubation period as travelers may become sick along the way. If that happens, the small communities that surround these areas have limited or no medical facilities. There is one small regional hospital in southern Utah located in St. George that covers the area from just south of Cedar City on 1-15 to Page, Arizona, and West beyond Mesquite, Nevada. This service area includes the Navajo Reservation where they have reported 76 cases as of yesterdays reporting which is 3 days behind todays date as it takes that long to receive test results. This regional hospital is nowhere near large enough to cover those residents that will be effected in southern Utah let alone trying to care for an influx of visitors.

As visitors continue to come to the area and shop local grocery stores it creates an additional burden for the residents when stores run out of many basic staples that the local residents need such as eggs, milk, or distilled water.

As southern Utah has a much larger percentage of older "high risk" residents than any other area in Utah, this additional risk for exposure to the virus and very limited medical facilities further endanger our most vulnerable population.

We will all suffer because of this virus and the financial ramifications are going to be horrific as we know. But we must consider if we are willing to risk the loss of family and friends in order to keep businesses open a little longer risking an even faster and more widespread exposure to this virus.

Now is the time to ask yourself what your priorities are. This is real and this is happening. Ask the people of New York if they could go back, would they rather have isolated early on to prevent the deaths and ravaging that their state is experiencing right now? As you see the images of refrigerated semi-trucks that are being brought in to store the dead, we must know that we cannot afford to ignore this any longer. Denial will not save lives.

If you would like to see the National Parks close here as they have done elsewhere in the

country, please contact your Governor at Governor@utah.gov. Click on 'contact' on the upper right side of the page, click on 'comments to the Governor, click on 'constituant service', Enter yes or no if you want a response (I clicked yes to be sure that it was read), fill out your information and the subject line and then enter your sentiments about not delaying shelter in place and National Park closure.

You can also Google the names and contact numbers of your city Mayor, Senators, Town Council Members, the head of the Department of Interior (he has the authority to close National Parks) and the President of the United States.

Call, Email, write letters, spread the word. Let your voice be heard.

I hope that you all stay safe out there.

Tammy

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