

MARCH 23, 2020

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



**Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of
Catastrophic Health Emergency – COVID-19**

WHEREAS, an outbreak of disease (“COVID-19”) caused by the novel coronavirus occurred in Hubei province, China, in late-2019, and has currently been detected in more than 152 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease resulting in illness and death caused by person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus which was not previously found in humans; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, as a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life and serious disability, is a deadly agent; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that a state of emergency exists with regard to the threat to the health of our people throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor of West Virginia declared that a state of emergency exists in West Virginia and its counties with regard to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to all state and local governments and all citizens recommending preparedness to prevent community spread; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, the CDC found COVID-19 has infected individuals in all 50 states including West Virginia and has resulted in a total of 10,442 confirmed and presumed cases in the United States and causing 150 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the transmission of the novel coronavirus is a threat to human health in Wood County and, in an effort to take every precaution and to prepare for the worst case scenario, while at the same time hoping for the best possible outcome; and

WHEREAS, the person-to-person spread modeled by the CDC and WHO indicates that extensive loss of life and/or serious illness or disability is threatened imminently in all of West Virginia because of the transmission of novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health catastrophe and public emergency and poses an immediate danger to the public safety; and

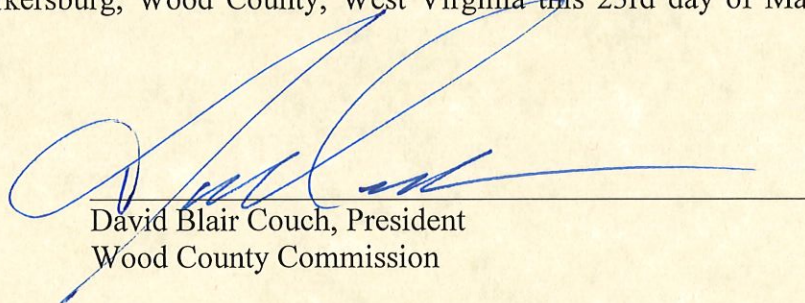
WHEREAS, the impending threat to Wood County by COVID-19 is a catastrophic health emergency requiring deployment of resources and assistance available only from the State of West Virginia and federal government to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I David Blair Couch, by the virtue of authority vested in me as the President of the Wood County Commission, pursuant to WV Code § 15-5-1, et seq. and the Wood County Emergency Operations Plan adopted August 29, 2019, do hereby find and declare that a State of Emergency exists in Wood County, West Virginia and hereby activate the Wood County Emergency Operations Plan and implement the operation of the Wood County Operations Center for the coordination of information and resources; and

FURTHER, I declare this State of Emergency in Wood County, West Virginia to commence on the 23rd day of March, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand.

Done at the County Seat, Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia this 23rd day of March, 2020.



David Blair Couch, President
Wood County Commission