

March 17, 2020

To the North Haven Select board,

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation of the board and town Administrator in this unprecedented time. Maintaining the health and safety of our community in this time is clearly priority number one and you all have shown that through your actions. Balancing the wellbeing of our sick, elderly and immunocompromised with the rights of all US citizens will undoubtedly require more work from all of you and all of us as citizens. With that said I would like to pose some questions and concerns for the board to consider in light of the Boards order issued on March 15th.

While I agree with all the points made in the first 16 paragraphs of the order I question if all of you considered similar factors in other small towns throughout our rural state? Many small towns, including the town I grew up in, have limited services and could be greatly impacted by this pandemic just as we may be. If this situation hit the United States 3 months later would we be asking people to leave? What will happen if this continues into the summer season when our numbers quadruple? The services provided on island may be limited but that is in no way unique. I must also add that the services available to our year round community are services paid for by all the tax payers of this community and are there for all when needed.

My concerns in regard to the paragraphs citing state statutes is that statute 22 chapter 250 sub-section 802 lays out more concrete rules of order to follow in regard to the situation surrounding Covid-19. The statutes listed in the order are counter to two areas of article 1 of the Maine constitution alone. These statutes do not supersede Article 4 of the US constitution which addresses freedom of travel. *Corfield V. Coryell* protects citizens of the US in their right to pass through and reside in any state within the union. The right to travel is also addressed in article 12 &13 of the International Bill of Human Rights.


The order issued on March 15th is rooted in good but is surrounded with too much grey area to be followed or enforced. I have not seen nor heard of cooperation with this order on behalf of the DoT, Maine CDC or Governors office. The order restricting seasonal residents, visitors and workers from coming to North Haven is an abuse of the states police powers act which would oversee such a move.

Who resides? Do college students with a change of address meet the criteria? What about taxpayers who grew up here and are immunocompromised and would like to hold up in their home? What if seasonal residents can show a clean bill of health and agree to self quarantine for 14 days? Will taxpayers be exempt from taxes while they are not welcomed? What happens to the people here who are not legal residents? The questions could go on and on in this area.

If the select board are serious about our community self isolating this order does not accomplish that. People may come and go if they adhere to an arbitrary standard that cannot be enforced. Is caring for a sick parent out of the midcoast area considered essential travel? What if family off island are unsafe or running low on food but otherwise healthy? Will they be allowed to come be with their family here?

As you can see there are too many questions and uncertainty in regard to this order. An order of this magnitude needs to come from the White House, CDC, Maine CDC or The Blaine House. While I would be upset at such an order I will have an easier time to take it serious coming from the aforementioned. As for the order the way it stands I do not take it serious and urge the select board to consider redrafting a measure that will help address the Covid -19 issue while leaving our rights intact.

Respectfully,



Kenneth A. Corson Jr.

