

To: Rick Robbins; Debra Rushton; Ty Wessell; Patricia Soutas-Little; Gwenne Allgaier; Melinda Lautner; Will Bunek;
Chet Janik
Cc: Laurel Evans; Michelle Crocker; Alison Middleton; Amy Hubbell; Eric Carlson
Subject: Special meeting - public comments

This is intended to be delivered to all county commissioners and entered into public comment for the 10/12/21 Special Session of the BOC.

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to make a public comment on your agenda for the meeting this evening. First, thank you for your hard work and preparation for each meeting on behalf of the people of Leelanau County. I know you give much of your time and work hard in your elected offices.

Second, I want you all to know how fully I have come to rely on the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department during these long and often harrowing months of a world-wide pandemic. I also want to commend the tireless, effective, and courageous work of the Health Officer, Lisa Peacock. I believe we are fortunate to have someone of her experience, wisdom, character, and expertise at the helm. As fully as I have come to rely on the Health Department for information and even comfort, I more deeply support them in their efforts to promote the collective health and well-being of the people of our Benzie-Leelanau District. I want them and you to know I think they are doing an amazing job of helping us during this time.

It worries and upsets me that people with no medical background, training, or expertise have become the voices that far too many listen to when it comes to staying safe during this pandemic. It worries me all the more when these voices are ones of authority by virtue of elected office. This has unfortunately been the case across all levels of government, but particularly here in Leelanau County where some commissioners seem to question the authority of the health officer and the health department, question the efficacy of public health measures, and seem to speculate about the effectiveness of the life-saving vaccinations.

I implore you all to fully support our wonderful District Health Department.

Thank you,

Barbara Kelly
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