



PO Box 85 - Saco, ME 04072  
877-999-8740 - [www.neaapa.com](http://www.neaapa.com)

Dear Governor Cuomo

I write to you as President of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) on behalf of our membership in New York State. NEAAPA is a trade organization representing attractions since being established in 1913. We over 170 members that are based in the Northeastern United States and the suppliers that we work with from around North America.

Your leadership in keeping New York as safe as possible in this pandemic is very appreciated. Because of your actions and policies, New York has gone from the hardest hit by the COVID-19 to one of the country's "safest" states. That is an incredible accomplishment that has required sacrifice by everyone in all walks of life. You certainly deserve all of the credit that is coming your way on a national basis. Recognizing the current situation regarding COVID-19 and the fact that you have now greenlighted many industries to re-open, I would like to make a case for the attractions industry. Simply put, we think the time is right. Therefore, this is to request your consideration to allow New York attraction businesses to open.

This industry, our industry, almost stands alone in the fact that it is built on safety. Behind the scenes we incorporate international standards in the maintenance and safe operation of attractions. Of course, we are known as the industry that supplies thrills, fun and even magic but our number one job is safety. It permeates everything we do. We work hard at it. We know how to keep people safe.

Working together with our counterpart state organizations in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, NEAAPA developed a detailed set of protocols and policies to operate our attractions safely during this pandemic. These protocols are being used in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Parks in these states have been open and have successfully kept their patrons safe. The parks are outdoors, with limited attendance and operating under strict safety policies starting with masks, social distancing and hand sanitizer. There has not been a single case of COVID traced to anyone who has attended any of these parks. The same will be true in New York if parks are allowed to open.

It may seem odd to be asking for a re-opening of our industry at what is the end of the season. There still is the shoulder Halloween Fright season. Having been shuttered without revenue for so long, even this short season would be helpful as our members try to stay afloat. However, perhaps more importantly, we need guidance for next season. Presently we do not know in what particular phase the attractions industry falls in or under what conditions will we be permitted to re-open.

We recognize that many people think we all go on vacation during the off-season. However, that is far from the truth. It is during the winter that we re-negotiate contracts, establish training and marketing

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programs, buy supplies, rides, games and attractions, recruit staff and generally prepare for the season. A lot of money is spent during these months. By losing this season, the financial viability of each attraction has been severely compromised. Some may not make it to next year. In order to see a path to survival and make the necessary expenditures for next season, guidance is needed now. We need to know more about how or if we may open in 2021.

Respectfully, I am asking for a meeting at which we can demonstrate and explain our safety protocols and answer any questions about our industry and how we can keep our New York patrons safe. Hopefully, together we can agree upon specific criteria under which we can open and operate in 2021. In the meantime, I have included some of our COVID-19 safety material and related documents for examination.

In closing, it is my hope to receive a reply from your office. I look forward to an opportunity to discuss these matters in detail.

Stay safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Anderson" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Anderson  
President  
NEAAPA