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Trump shouldn't change any federal rules amid coronavirus crisis, N.J. attorney general says

By Blake Nelson

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New Jersey is asking President Donald Trump's administration to not change any federal rules while states have their hands full with the coronavirus.

When a federal agency wants to change a regulation, it normally allows the public to weigh in. For example, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed changing drinking water regulations, attorneys general from several states publicly pushed the agency to tighten rules even more.

On Tuesday, 21 state and city attorneys general said the pandemic made it impossible to respond to almost any proposal beyond those dealing with COVID-19.

"We need the federal government to stay focused," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement. "So we are calling on the Administration to prioritize its response to COVID-19, and its economic fallout, instead of pushing through rules that don't address the most urgent needs of people in New Jersey and across the country."

The government should also seek more input on proposals recently closed to public comment, the officials wrote, because the world had changed so drastically.

The commerce department and the Federal Communications Commission have already extended public comment for certain proposals, and the EPA did the same Wednesday for a cleanup plan in Ringwood.

Trump previously froze new rules the day he took office.

Additional rule proposals that could be temporarily frozen involve predatory lending, sexual harassment in schools and housing discrimination, according to Grewal's office.

The government could also delay a proposed cutback to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps, Grewal's office said.

The letter was directed to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. A request for comment was not immediately returned.