

My name is Bob Grover and I am President of Pacific landscape management, a Hillsboro based landscape contractor that serves the entire Portland / Vancouver Metropolitan area with three branches and 275 employees. I am also the Legislative director on the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association and a member of the board of the National Association of Landscape Professionals, our national trade association. I am writing today, to share our position on any potential shelter in place order that might be enforced in Portland and or Multnomah County.

Whereas we Strongly support measures to slow and stop the spread the coronavirus in the local area, we believe that a shelter in place is not necessary and has potentially such significant economic impact, that it outweighs the safety desired by shelter in place. Shutting down commerce will have long term horrific impacts to our population that can outweigh the risk of the coronavirus. Many live paycheck to paycheck and there is not enough resource in the city, state, or federal government to offset wage loss.

We also believe that landscape maintenance is an essential service as we maintain living environments surrounding homes and businesses. Without care, many landscapes can quickly degrade and significantly impact their asset value to the property. We also believe that there is significant sanitation, and safety and security issues if properties go unmaintained for any period of time, especially in spring like it is now. We also perform all of our work outdoors and naturally do this with social separation.

That all being said above, we have seen in other jurisdictions throughout the country that have begun to place shelter in place orders that have excluded many occupations deemed essential, including landscape maintenance. See the attached ordinance from the city of Palm Springs specifically excluding landscape maintenance. Also, see the attached document from the National Association of landscape professional outlining the justification of landscaping being determined as an essential service

Bob Grover, President

PACIFIC LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

cell 503-793-6104 office 503-648-3900 fax 503-642-2369

bob.grover@pacscape.com www.pacscape.com