

State Representative Margret Doherty
House District 35
900 Court St NE, H-282 Salem Oregon



March 20, 2020

Re: Definition of Non-Essential Businesses

Chairs Holvey and Roblan,

I am writing you today to strongly urge you to take a very close look at the possibility of all non-essential jobs be stopped until this crisis is over. I am extremely concerned about what this will do to a sector of our workforce. We need to be specific as to whether it is non-essential or if it is a job that has no contact with people.

Many people work in jobs where they are the only employee. They are also working by themselves and have no interaction with others. This needs to be taken into consideration before any decision is made to label a business as non-essential.

I am talking about Marcus, who cleans my gutters, washes my windows and cleans my roof. He works totally on his own. In fact, he did my windows this week and we waved, talked through the window and left his check on the porch. Jody has cleaned my house for 20 plus years, and she works on her own or is joined by her son who is on another floor. Tim does yard work and is rarely even close to his assistant.

There are thousands of Oregonians like Marcus, Jody and Tim and we cannot leave them high and dry when they would probably not interact with anyone.

Please take my concern about thousands of Oregonians and write rules that protect them, while giving them guidance in keeping everyone safe.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Doherty".

Rep. Margaret Doherty