

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey and Roblan,

As a business owner, I am writing today to share the impacts the current COVID-19 health crisis is having on my business, my employees and my family. I own an independent specialty outdoor retail store in Ashland.

These are hard times for all of us. I encourage you to support our business community as we deal with the astonishing economic disruption that has accompanied this health crisis.

Until last week I had 6 employees. I have laid all of them off until things start to turn around. Last week I ran my business by myself. As of today I am closing my doors. I will reopen and will welcome back any and all of my employees with open arms once we get through this. We will get through this! What things look like coming out the other side is up in the air.

We are all in this together because we live in an interconnected society. My landlord deserves to have rent paid but I have no income. My vendors need to get paid but I have no income. My employees need money for food and rent but I don't have income to pay them. I need money for food but no income. Any bailout and/or stimulus needs to be from the bottom up, not the other way around! We are a consumer driven service economy. When workers have no money the entire economy comes to a screeching halt. The only way out of it is getting money back to those who will spend it and rebuild the economy from the bottom up!

This means grants for small businesses to get through this spell of no income and money to those temporarily unemployed to keep the economy functioning at a minimal level until it is safe for people to build back to business as a relative normal.

Sincerely,

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