

\* FOR URGENT CONSIDERATION \*

March 18, 2020

To: Governor Kate Brown  
House Speaker Tina Kotek  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
Joint Special Committee On Coronavirus Response

Fr: Representative of the Culinary, Beverage, Event and Agricultural Community  
Re: The COVID-19 Outbreak in Oregon – Small Business Urgent Needs

We appreciate your response to our request for closing restaurants and bars earlier this week further demonstrating your immense commitment to keeping all Oregonians healthy and safe during the pandemic. We made this request knowing that we were not only impacting the lives of our employees but those of our partners up and down the supply chain. The farms and ranches that provide our ingredients; our partners who produce some of the finest wine, beer and spirits in the country; and our colleagues in the event industry are all significantly impacted by this crisis. We understand that devoting resources to healthcare has been your priority, **however without immediate assistance our industry and our workforce will be irreparably damaged.**

Our three most urgent needs are:

**Emergency Orders for Changes to Unemployment and Disability insurance:**

Ensure that all workers receive Unemployment Insurance benefits for the duration of the pandemic response; **that the waiting week and requirement to look for work is also suspended.** Additionally we request that an emergency rule for Unemployment Insurance is issued for the duration of the pandemic response that will provide coverage if a worker is:

- Mildly ill with COVID-19
- Exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined no matter the status of business operations
- Immune compromised and advised to self-quarantine
- Without work because their employer must shut down due to a public officials order or a business slow down or lack of demand
- Guarantee that individuals who are unable to work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19 can file an expedited Disability Insurance claim

Washington State has implemented this plan, details are here: <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/COVID-19>

*PLEASE NOTE: The Unemployment website and offices have been unable to process claims consistently for the past two days. The online system is down and agents are telling callers they're unable to assist them. Applicants being told that their gender or social security doesn't match their record, or that they cannot file a claim because the business is closed. Without an immediate remedy to these issues the vast majority of claimants will not be able to make rent payments in April.*

**SBA Disaster Loan Assistance:**

Currently only eight of Oregon's 36 counties are eligible for loan assistance from the SBA as a result of orders placed by Washington and Nevada. We are acutely aware that these funds are not awarded in a timely fashion and must be able to apply now.

**Legislative Action to Close the Virus Exclusion in Business Interruption Insurance.**

Over the past decade, insurance agencies have become more cautious about exposure and as a result Business Interruption policies now include specific virus exclusions, some of which identify the COVID-19 specifically.

A bill is needed to force Business Interruption insurers to provide coverage for this crisis with an effective date of March 16, 2020. This is not unprecedented -- the New Jersey legislature is advancing a bill that states:

*"Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary, every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use and occupancy and business interruption in force in this State on the effective date of this act, shall be construed to include among the covered perils under that policy, coverage for business interruption due to global virus transmission or pandemic."*

As small business owners, we are already carrying a significant debt burden. In order to continue operationally after this crisis we need creative, immediate action to infuse financial resources into our community. We have identified the following needs and suggestions and are eager to be included in Task Force and Special Committee conversations:

- Provide employers with a 60-day extension of time to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest.
- Suspend payroll tax and required retirement account contributions.
- Create a grant program providing funds for businesses with fewer than 125 employees who have seen sales decreases of 25 percent or more in order to help mitigate losses in profit.
- Create a grant program for companies with fewer than 100 employees to provide financial assistance specifically to meet the needs of employer-sponsored health care coverage for employees.
- Provide commercial rent relief. Mandate that no commercial rent, lease payments, or contract payments be required during the duration of the administrative closure.
- Place a moratorium on commercial evictions after March 15, 2020 for the duration of the administrative action.
- Defer all city and state business taxes for Small Businesses. For businesses with up to \$7M in gross receipts, defer payment of quarterly business taxes due April 30, 2020, nine months to February 2021 with no interest or penalties.
- Defer all city and state business licensing fees for three months.
- Establish a task force to convene large banks, financial associations, utilities, telecoms, and major employers to identify opportunities to provide relief such as debt and late penalty forgiveness, deferring bills, providing no-interest loans and waiving fees for companies and workers negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Work with federal lawmakers to significantly increase funding for public health and economic development, while facilitating rules and regulations that could provide relief to businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19.

We ask that you take action now. Our industries and our state have overcome adversity before; armed with the right tools, we can do it again. **Without them, we will perish.**

In solidarity,

1. Erika M. Polmar, Plate & Pitchfork
2. Lane Selman, Oregon State University
3. Kurt Huffman, ChefStable
4. Peter Cho & Sun Young Park, Han Oak
5. Sean Sullivan, Stumptown Coffee Roasters
6. Emily Anderson, P's & Q's Market
7. Paul Davis, P's & Q's Market
8. Luke Dirks - Submarine Hospitality, Ava Gene's, Tusk
9. Sam Smith, Tusk
10. Eric Nelson, Eem
11. Alan Akwai, Hat Yai
12. Naomi Pomeroy (Beast and Expatriate)
13. Kyle Linden Webster (Expatriate)
14. Gabrielle Quiñónez Denton, Ox Restaurant and Bistro Agnes
15. Greg Denton, Ox Restaurant and Bistro Agnes
16. Maylin Chavez, Olympia Oyster Bar
17. Clark Hale, Pizzeria Otto
18. Joel Gunderson, Coopers Hall
19. Mary Colombo, Wild Roots Farm
20. Kelcie Mickels, Truffle Hog Inc., dba Fresh & Wild

21. David Hoyle, Creative Growers Organic Farm
22. Emily Mistell and Sophie Thomson Hey Love
23. Kimberly Bernosky, Noble Rot
24. Doug Adams & Jennifer Quist , Bullard and Abigail Hall
25. Katie Prinsen, Prince Coffee
26. Lisa Schroeder, Mother's Bistro & Bar
27. Thomas Pisha-Duffly and Mariah Pisha-Duffly, Gado Gado
28. Sam Purvis, Good Coffee
29. BIGPAK LLC dba Bhuna Restaurant
30. Andrew Rich, Andrew Rich Wines
31. Anastasia Baker, The Table PDX
32. Heather Wallberg, Star Sprouts LLC
33. Lindsay Strannigan, Strannigan & Sons LLC
34. Jane Pellicciotto, Allegro Design
35. Carlo Lamagna, Magna Kusina
36. Brian Schultz, Jurassic
37. Asia Rau, The Strategic Ampersand
38. Joel Stocks, Holdfast
39. Jonathan Berube, Radar Restaurant
40. Patrick Carney, Fun Mountain LLC, DBA SKIDBLADNIR
41. Drew Marquardt, Corfini Gourmet
42. Olivia Starkie, Little Sardine
43. Ken Pahlow and Erica Landon, Walter Scott Wines
44. Jesse Kincheloe, Valley Commissary
45. Aaron Adams, Farm Spirit LLC
46. Maria Stuart, R. Stuart & Co. Winery
47. Sara Minnick, Lovely's Fifty Fifty
48. Shardell M Dues, Red Sauce Pizza
49. James Kelly, owner, 1927 S'mores Company
50. Elise Kelly, owner, 1927 S'mores Company
51. Sean Fredericks, Kargi Gogo
52. Dana Frank, Owner, Bar Norman
53. Scott Frank, Owner, Bow & Arrow/Delicious Wines
54. Stacey Gibson, Partner, Park Avenue Fine Wines
55. Emily Squadra, co-owner Wildflower Baking
56. Teddy Albertson - See See Motor Coffee Co. / One Motorcycle Show
57. Gabriel Rucker, Co-owner, Le pigeon and canard
58. Andrew Fortgang, Co-owner, Le pigeon and canard
59. Elizabeth Nathan, Eb & Bean
60. Elizabeth Pettigrew Chef/Owner Sardine Head
61. Erick Russ, The Golden Cat Beer Venue
62. Ryan LeBrun, The Golden Cat Beer Venue
63. Cassy Gleason, Buckman Coffee Factory & Marigold Coffee
64. Joey Gleason, Buckman Coffee Factory & Marigold Coffee
65. Garrett Peck, Paley Hospitality
66. Rick Gencarelli, Lardo & Grassa
67. Chef Chris DiMinno
68. Kim Boyce, owner Bakeshop
69. Chris & Celeste Brady, Extracto Coffee Roasters
70. Jon Poteet, Shine Distillery & Grill
71. Kari Young
72. Katia Bezerra-Clark, Will Fain, Annie Moss owners of Seastar Bakery & Handsome Pizza
73. Maya Lovelace, Yonder and Mae
74. Bonnie Morales, Kachka
75. Richard Gomez de Rosas, Palomar
76. Zach Lefler, Yonder and Mae

77. Israel Morales, Kachka
78. Sean O'Connor and Jessica Silverman, KEX Hotel and Dóttir
79. Caryn and Mike Nelson, Guildler and Junior's Roasted Coffee
80. Toby Roberts, Guildler and Junior's Roasted Coffee
81. Carrie Lind, Guildler and Junior's Roasted Coffee
82. Ed Gibson , Vtopia All Vegan Restaurant & Cheese Shop
83. Emily Cooper, Full Cellar Farm
84. Jessie Smith, Bushel & Peck
85. Destiny Sternod, Main Street Squeeze Juice & Smoothie
86. Chef Scott Dolich
87. Katie Sombat, Operations Manager, Beast
88. Ivy Cardillo
89. Lindsay Goodrich, Nolan Hirte, Shari Hirte, Matt Lounsbury, Proud Mary Coffee
90. Cathy Whims & David West, Nostrana & Enoteca Nostrana
91. Nate and Jamie Snell, Pip's Original, The Lamb's Table Catering, and Singing Sands Recording Studio.
92. Paul Sullivan
93. Dana Sullivan
94. Bryce Kanights
95. Summer Triato, Union/Plne and Bar West
96. Lisa Hill
97. Blake Foster, Zoo Bar PDX
98. Steve Carder, GM of Slow Bar
99. Rob Hemmerling, owner of Slow Bar
100. Suzanne Savoie, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds
101. Johnny Ricci, Dots/Atlas/Five&Dime
102. Gabriel Pascuzzi - Mama Bird & Stacked Sandwich Shop
103. Eli Johnson, Co-Owner Dot's Cafe, Atlas Pizza, Five&Dime.
104. Patrick Fleming, Boke Bowl
105. Alicia Matos and Charlie Mattouk, Charlie's Deli LLC
106. Brianne Day, Day Wines
107. Aaron Barnett, St. Jack and La Moule
108. Mark Lopez, Crave Catering
109. Katy Connors, Director of Operations, Hat Yai
110. Han Ly Hwang, Kim Jong Grillin'
111. Judiaann Woo
112. Courtney Cunningham, Community Plate and Pizza Capo
113. Corey Schuster, Jackalope Wine Cellars
114. Andy Diaz, Blackbird Wines and Atomic Cheese
115. Adam and Jackie Sappington, Harlow, Prasad, Prasad East, and The Country Cat
116. Liz Dodd, Owl & Anchor
117. Paul Losch, Ruddick/Wood
118. Akkapong Earl Ninsom. EEM, Langbaan, Paadee, Hat Yai, Kim jong smokehouse
119. Matt Lynch, Boxer Ramen, Sweet Heart Pizza, SuperDeluxe, Snappy's
120. Scott Cunningham, Community Plate and Pizza Capo
121. David Touvelle, Sustainability Corp dba Chow
122. Katherine Bowers
123. Jessica Risdon, Nuvrei
124. Kristen D. Murray, Maurice
125. Emily and Scott Ketterman, Crown Paella
126. Gina Helvie, Trinket
127. Ben Jacobsen, Jacobsen Salt Co.
128. Anne Hubatch, Helioterra Wines & Alter Ego Cider
129. Robin Wheelright, Vivienne Kitchen & Pantry
130. Ryan McAbery, Modern Terrain
131. Don Salamone, owner, Burger Stevens
132. Gary Okazaki

133. Randall Lawrence, Cranival Studios in Portland
134. Hannah Cooley; General Manager Tacovore Portland
135. Ryan Sharp, ENSO Winery
136. Harold and Maggie Nolder Clockwork Rose Tea Emporium
137. Christian DeBenedetti, Founder & Head Brewer, Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery
138. Peter Bro of Broder Restaurant Group
139. Heidi Whitney-Schile owner of Grain and Gristle
140. Amanda Goeke, Volcanic Bottle Shop
141. Jaret Foster & Mona Johnson. Tournant
142. Bill Jones and Anja Spence, Miss Zumstein
143. Jeana Edelman at HOTLIPS Pizza
144. Sandi and Dan Wilkens and Emily Everett, Owners of Quaintrelle and Abbey Road Farm
145. Misty Combie, Tanglewood Beverage Company
146. Spencer Hamiga; General Manager of Sisters Bakery
147. Dominic and Angela Valdes, Tea Chai Te
148. Anna Kuzmin, Chef/Owner Gather Restaurant Silverton
149. Arun Sharma, Vintage Cocktail Lounge & Vault Cocktail Lounge
150. Nicolle Dirks and Jose Arancibia, Epif
151. Thomas Monroe, Division Wine Co.
152. Narendra Varma, Executive Director, Our Table Cooperative
153. Jesse Roberson & Manuel Camarena - Tidal Raves, Depoe Bay
154. Christian DeBenedetti, Founder & Head Brewer Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery
155. Ryan Magarian, Oven and Shaker/1927 S'mores Company
156. Eric & Karen Bowler: Fortune, Tube, Century, Revelry & Maxwell
157. Stoller Family Estate and Chehalem Winery
158. Sara Rosenbaum-Murry, Castaway Portland, Blockhouse, Greatroom
159. Casey Murry, Castaway Portland, Blockhouse, Greatroom
160. Kurt Beadell, VT Group, Vibrant Table, Food in Bloom, F&B Cafe
161. Alex Chong, Grand Cru Hospitality
162. Patrick Miller, Grand Cru Hospitality
163. Sherine Iskandar, Vintage Meets Modern
164. Misty Damico, Luxe Event Productions
165. Christopher Manning, The Party Place
166. Cindy Labuhn, Bridgewood Events
167. Patrick Harvey, Really Big Video
168. Dr. Maria Harvey, Really Big Video
169. Kimberly Morrill, Your Perfect Bridesmaid
170. Beth Behler, Art of Weddings
171. Chanelle Walters, Lux Sucre Desserts