

Dear Legislature,

I am writing to you as a small business owner in a rural town in Oregon. My husband owned a construction company for 9 years and decided he wanted to be home more often with our children and so we bought and remodeled a coffee shop in Silverton. We knew the business would be dependent on offering items not available in our small community and to be a place for people to gather. High volumes of traffic would not be able to be our game, as is possible in larger communities, so serving people well and effectively would allow us to succeed.

On March 7th, we gathered our employees, opened our doors, and welcomed lines of people into our space. It was beautiful. The care, service, and love was evident.

Fast forward to what none of us could have predicted 8 days later...a mandate (at this point) to do take-out only. Reducing our newly hired crew, wondering how we will make enough on the capital we have left after buying starting inventory, finishing our remodel, and trying to provide for our family is what we are now faced with. I have heard "loans will be available". That won't be enough for your small, family-owned businesses to sustain starting inventory, payroll, business bills, and personal bills. I've heard "infusion of \$1k-\$2k cash" . Personally, that will help us pay some of our bills, but the lack of income to cover our business, then cover our family is worrisome. I have also heard "cut on payroll taxes". For some businesses, this will be helpful. Unfortunately, with one round of payroll after our opening and training...this will not be enough. Our timing is incredibly devastating to our livelihood and future.

I have crunched the numbers, agonized over what will become of our life savings (pouring into this adventure) and I just don't know how we can do this without a solid plan of assistance. Big corporations will be ok. They will get surges of money we won't even hear about. Small businesses who are trying to raise families, pour into communities, and pay their workers will be hit the hardest.

Please make small businesses a priority. We don't have lobbyists. We don't have an influx of money to pour into politics. But, we have families. Children. Hearts to serve and see communities thrive. Dreams to do our best and make another persons day. We just want to be able to provide a service, love our community, and support our family.

Dan and Annie Schacher
Gear-Up, Silverton