

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the cofounder of a legal cannabis business launched in April 2014. We make packaged goods that fill the shelves of dispensaries and service a population that is in need of medicine and antidotes to the stress at hand.

As a small business, we are facing the difficult decisions to lay off our employees while still maintaining some production to keep the business running as much as it can while we endure this pandemic. Without shutting down fully, we are concerned that our employees will not be able to get unemployment insurance due to a technicality, and need guidance and swift assistance around this issue. A subsidy to businesses like ours to support our employees as we weather this storm will not only support these workers, but also lessen the burden on the un-employment system that is already at capacity.

We are imploring the state to offer some element of relief for businesses like ours for relief in terms of the employee issue, as well as commercial rent abatement, and assistance for survival as business owners ourselves, as we cannot apply for unemployment insurance as we try to continue to run our businesses. These smaller amounts over the course of two months make the difference between a business being able to pick up once this pandemic has passed and never being able to start up again, leaving business owners with crippling debt and potential bankruptcy.

We encourage the Legislature to discuss and implement policies no later than the first week of April to ensure that we can plan accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Carrie Solomon
CEO / Cofounder
Leif Goods
Sail the high seas!

LEIF GOODS  *Sail the high seas*
www.leifgoods.com

I'm a small business owner with four employees. Yesterday I had to lay them all off. How come they can qualify for benefits and get money from the state, but I as their former employer cannot? That doesn't seem fair.

I essentially had to lay myself off, where's my hand out from the state?

And don't mention 0% small business loan. That's really nice, but there's absolutely no guarantee that I'll even be able to restart my business once this has all passed.

Respectfully yours, thank you for doing your jobs.

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

Sent via mobile device.
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