

Dear Legislatures,

My name is Wm Evan Roberts, I am co-owner of Crowley Wines based in Newberg, Oregon. We are a small winery that has been part of the Oregon Wine Industry since our first vintage in 2005. We have grown to over 3000 cases annually and work with 5 local small family run vineyards in the Willamette Valley. We also employed a 2/3rds time direct sales and wholesale person and a cellar hand both of whom we had to layoff due to the direct impact of the Coronavirus and the closing of Restaurants and Bars here in Oregon this week.

We self-distribute to the greater Portland Metro Area, the North Coast of Oregon and Vancouver and Camas. We also work with a small locally owned distributor who handles Eugene, Corvallis and Bend for us. The revenue stream has been cut down to a trickle and our small distributor is on the verge of going out of business and not being able to pay. We are not alone. The vast majority of small Oregon Wineries are in the same boat if not worse off. As an industry we bring tourist dollars, we create jobs, support small businesses in our suppliers and support businesses. Some business assistance is needed now, we want to hire our people back and create even more jobs but at this point we are just trying to figure out how to stay solvent.

Please consider how to help the small wineries and the small businesses (restaurants, bars, wine shops) that have been so deeply impacted by this virus already. I have 100s of friends in who have lost their jobs in just the last few days, things are only going to get worse for them and us all as the time goes on if something is not done to help us all quickly.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and current experiences in this crisis.

Sincerely,

Wm Evan Roberts

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