



March 18, 2020

The Honorable Arnie Roblan
Oregon State Senator
900 Court Street NE, S-417
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Paul Holvey
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, H-277
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Comments on the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response as it relates to small business,
via jscvr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Senator Roblan, Representative Holvey:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the small business perspective as you draft the State of Oregon's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Shaver Transportation Company has been operating in Portland, Oregon for over 140 years. We are a 6th generation, family-owned tug and barge company. We provide barge service to inland ports on the Columbia River and ship docking services to cargo vessels calling on the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers. We have over 120 employees who are vital to the maritime commerce of the region. Concerned for the health, safety, and financial well-being of our employees is our most pressing priority.

We request that you strongly consider the following as you work to keep Oregon's communities healthy and our economy functioning and strong:

- First and foremost, we need to keep the economic engine of our state and local economies going. Shelter-in-place and restricting commerce is not a sustainable course of action. Enhanced efforts and focus on those most at risk is a prudent course of action.
- Any changes or updates to paid sick leave requirements need to have exceptions for those business that already exceed the state standards. The potential for compounding effects of state and federal paid sick leave on top of contractual labor agreements is not feasible and will result in severe payroll hardships.
- Maritime transportation is a critical and essential link in the regional economy and supply chain. Maritime transportation workers must be considered vital workforce when considering essential personnel for this emergency. Again, shelter-in-place is not a viable option.
- A Federal and State payroll tax holiday would be a welcomed initiative to ease stress on small business capital and cash flows.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Rob Rich
Vice-President, Marine Services