

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 10, 2020

Senator Arnie Roblan, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Roblan and Holvey:

Please consider the following concepts for formal discussions related to our upcoming triaging process.

Tourism/Retail

- Immediate \$40,000,000 to Business Oregon for "situation specific" 0% Interest loans for all tourism/recreation/retail businesses that can: 1) demonstrate how reduced volume is a short-term problem (as opposed to a failing business without an actual business plan); 2) repay a loan valued at 90% (cap) of seasonal revenues within three (3) years at 0%; four (4) years at 4%; or a cap of 5 years at 8%; and 3) commit to maintaining all workers to at least health-care levels (in hours) of employment for the duration of the three (3) month period targeted for assistance.
- Provide an immediate two-year no penalty "bridge" for quarterly/state taxes: this means they will have to pay them eventually, but they would have added flexibility absent penalties for a two-year "cushion" if they can demonstrate links to COVID-19 impacts.

Production

- \$10,000,000 set-aside for State of Oregon absorbs Worker's Compensation payments for a three (3) months period for those businesses that can demonstrate actual/likely slowed production rates resulting from COVID-19.
- \$10,000,000 set-aside for "Facilities" Grants associated with the costs of keeping the doors open - so available revenues can be used to keep workers from being laid off; (one-time, three-month scale) grants for use in paying electricity costs, fuel costs, materials costs, rent/lease/mortgage.

Supply Chain Support for Production

- \$10,000,000 set-aside for three (3) month waiver of state fuel taxes for businesses (guaranteed rebates paid on monthly basis from DOR) with demonstrated links to production/manufacturing sector.

Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry

- \$20,000,000 set-aside for "Depot-level maintenance" of necessary equipment and facilities; payments associated with turning workers from production to internal structures/systems enhancements to do the work that natural resources dependent industries always fail to make time or money available to do. Fund links to mitigating layoffs; finding work for the workers to do - even at distance - while the rest of the economy recovers (and coming out the other side more efficient because of the maintenance work done during the "economic coma."

Self-Employed

- \$10,000,000 for 75% of demonstrated income for three (3) month "Smart Health Investment" grants for self-employed folks to remain as isolated as possible without losing client-base. The grant is for the larger community, in terms of preventing these "go-getters" from taking unwise risks to keep customer bases content during a potentially protracted season.

Unemployed/In-Training

- \$20,000,000 for 75% of learning/living costs for three (3) months associated with all apprenticeships, post-secondary students, career training students: think GI Bill for a "3-month gap" to keep folks from losing their homes or ability to pay basic bills including food/fuel.

Family Support Networks

- \$20,000,000 for COVID-19 Emergency Shelter-in-Place Childcare Grants: three (3) month eligibility for paying the "price of a parent" not going to work. The shelter in place standard is best practices, but it is not practical. We pay families with children less than 14 years old a standard grant (amount for each child, for three months) to assist families with costs associated with societal upheaval about to happen. The money isn't for them, the money is an insurance policy for the rest of us from the potential risk of exposure from children.

Investments for Mitigating Second/Third Wave Impacts:

- \$15,000,000 in additional funding for the Resiliency Grant Fund within the Treasury split evenly between equipment for local, regional, and tribal government preparedness and public health response equipment and/or medical supplies. There is an inherent systemic struggle within the healthcare provider community when it comes to pre-staging stockpiles of medical equipment. We need "reserve" capacities that cost-efficiency models cannot respect. The SPIRE Grant program can be reloaded through a budget allocation.
- \$10,000,000 in contingency funding for the likelihood of a state mobilization of the National Guard. The federal government may approve a partial mobilization under Title 10 or Title 32, but the providing the Governor with the option of having the resources to deploy critical units earlier than later is a "force-multiplier."
- \$15,000,000 in contingency funding for Oregon Health Authority for contagion prevention, response, and recovery programming.
- \$5,000,000 in additional funding for region specific response efforts. A population-based formula for flexible public grants for crisis response could help local, regional, and tribal governments become more willing to lean-forward in taking preventative steps. The unfortunate combination of contagion and the interruption of supply chains resulting from the geographical origin of this virus make flexible funding a critical tool.
- \$5,000,000 in contingency funding for SAIF for supporting the Governor's range of options under the State of Emergency. These funds would cover potential costs related to increased risks for predominantly volunteer-based emergency services response organizations: this would provide for greater certainty for deployment of hundreds to thousands of predominantly volunteer (underinsured) groups that may be called into service should the crisis worsen.

Respectfully,



Paul L. Evans

Chair, Oregon House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' and Emergency Preparedness