

From: [Gary Bracelin](#)
To: [Exhibits JSCVR](#); [Rep Holvey](#); [Sen Roblan](#)
Cc: [Rep Salinas](#); [Rep Stark](#); [Rep Barreto](#); [Rep Bynum](#); [Rep Evans](#); [Rep Moore-Green](#); [Sen Boquist](#); [Sen Boles](#); [Sen Steiner Hayward](#); [Sen Taylor](#); [Sen MonnesAnderson](#); [Sen Findley](#); [Sen Gelser](#); [Sen Knopp](#)
Subject: Covid-19 Relief Committee
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:27:07 PM

To: The Joint Committee on Covid-19 Virus Relief
Co Chair Representative Holvey
Co- Chair Senator Roblan

I am writing you today as one of the owners of Tokyo Starfish, a vertically integrated cannabis business based in Bend, Oregon. Our business includes four retail stores and statewide wholesale product distribution.

As I am certain you know, the Oregon cannabis industry already faces several unique challenges in our early stages, including high taxation, lack of banking support, and heavy regulations, to name just a few. While those topics are conversations for another day, the reason for my email to you today is to ask that you also consider supporting the cannabis industry as you work to support other challenged Oregon businesses during these trying times. We will certainly not be receiving any form of federal support, so we depend entirely on you. We believe our businesses and our employees should be considered for relief, same as any other industry and its employees. The majority of our retail staff are working class, often parents of young families, who rely on every penny of their income to get by.

Our biggest concern is the physical, mental and financial health and welfare of our employees and community. To that end, we have asked that any of our employees who are "at risk" or simply uncomfortable in a retail setting to take a personal leave. The majority of our employees feel we provide a needed service to our community, both medical and mainstream/recreational markets, and they want to stay open to provide that service. OLCC today sent out guidelines for safe practices and we have instituted and exceeded these suggestions for the last week. We will continue to work proactively to protect our employees and customers.

In my humble opinion, and you are likely already considering these kinds of measures, I believe there are a few things the state could do to help all businesses in the short term as well as support for those in the long term, including:

- Postpone the CAT tax for all businesses for at least one year to reassess the impact it might have. We have enough to deal with right now and that is just another challenge for many.
- Direct a payment or a kicker to all state-registered individual tax payers
- Tax rebates or credits for affected businesses
- Extended or enhanced unemployment or PTO options
- PTO reimbursements for companies to leverage during this period
- Potential cannabis sales tax relief and/or reinvestment, state-backed (loans), a pause on regulatory fees

(For example, the OLCC could relax home delivery regulations temporarily to make it easier for retailers to offer home delivery to more areas.)

Thank you for your valuable time and efforts during these trying times. Please let me know if I can assist in any way.

Sincerely,
Gary Bracelin
Tokyo Starfish, Partner / Owner