



**SENATOR CHUCK THOMSEN**

**March 19, 2020**

**The Honorable Arnie Roblan the Honorable Paul Holvey  
Co-Chairs  
The Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem, OR 97301**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for convening this committee to demonstrate our bipartisan commitment to swift and decisive action to protect our fellow Oregonians from the coronavirus.

As this committee deliberates a coronavirus relief package, I request that you add the three specific relief items below to this legislation. These are policies focused solely on putting money back into the pockets of families and small business owners in my district and yours. These policy changes would begin to mitigate the dire impact that this virus is having on the good people of our state.

To provide meaningful relief to families and small business owners in my district and yours, state government must:

- Immediately disburse personal kicker tax refunds to Oregon families in the form of checks as soon as possible but no later than Memorial Day;
- Immediately exempt anything sold in a grocery store or pharmacy from the new commercial activities tax, including items currently subject to the tax like prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, wipes, personal hygiene products, cleaning products and hand sanitizer; and
- Temporarily suspend payroll taxes for our small business owners and reevaluate this suspension on June 30, 2020.

In addition to these specific items, the closure of our state's pubs and restaurants has effectively shuttered our homegrown craft brew industry. This is having a disproportionate impact on families in my district. I encourage the committee to work closely with the Oregon Brewers Guild on a solution that will allow brewers to survive the shutdown and help their employees weather this crisis.

Our families and communities need relief now. We don't have time for partisan bickering over political minutia. I am here to ask you to send relief now to the families and small business owners in my Mt. Hood-area district as well as yours. Every citizen in this state deserves swift, decisive service from our state government.

Best Regards,

Chuck Thomsen  
State Senator Oregon Senate District 26