

Hello,

I and a number of other small business owners like me want to know what will be done to relieve the burden on businesses which were forced to shut down due to the COVID-19 response.

Currently the self employed have no relief options. Out of work employees have the option of unemployment. We don't. We also don't even have access to SBA disaster relief loans because we have not yet been declared a disaster.

SBA loans aren't even an acceptable response to be honest. More debt is not a solution. We have commercial leases to pay (which in Portland are astronomically expensive), as well as our residential rents or mortgages and living expenses.

You have told us to shut down and we have, we are leading from the front and implementing social distancing (in some cases voluntarily, as direction from actual leadership has been lacking). We are taking responsibility and doing what we need to do.

What we are asking is HOW DO WE LIVE when you have taken our income away from us? How do we meet our financial obligations?

We are drowning and so far no one has thrown us anything resembling a life line.

What is going to be done for the self employed to make sure we come out of this the other side?

Respectfully,

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