



March 20, 2020

TO: Co-Chair Paul Holvey
Co-chair Arnie Roblan
Committee Members

FROM: Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Jason Brandt, President & CEO, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

RE: Update from ORLA to Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

Chairs Holvey and Roblan and Committee Members,

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide you with information on the state of the hospitality industry in Oregon during this COVID-19 crisis.

As a follow-up to our testimony yesterday to the Committee, we wanted to provide you with two updates.

First, we have received new data from Open Table to update slide number three titled "Current State of the Industry." As a reminder, this data includes year-over-year seated diners at restaurants on the OpenTable network across all channels: online reservations, phone reservations, and walk-ins. For year-over-year comparisons by day, we compare to the same day of the week from the same week in the previous year. For example, we'd compare Tuesday of week 11 in 2020 to Tuesday of week 11 in 2019.

Updated data from March 17, 2020 shows a 99% decline in seated dinners for the state of Oregon and 100% decline for the City of Portland from March 17, 2019.

Included with this letter is an updated slide showing this dramatic decline.

Second, it is our understanding the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the Governor are considering "shelter in place" measures to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association supports efforts to address this crisis and protect public health and safety. To make sure all available resources can be brought to bear, we are asking for your help in designating restaurants and lodging establishments as "essential services" for the purposes of

the shelter in place measures in any decisions you may make or discussions you may have with other elected officials.

You are undoubtedly aware any shelter in place measures not carefully crafted will have the impact of fully overwhelming our systems.

Many restaurants around the state are fully closed today. Some are still providing takeout and delivery, simply as a means of continuing food supply to vulnerable populations and mitigating losses to keep employees on the payroll. They are suffering deep hardship but are doing so to provide an essential public service. We have been working with these members, in coordination with City, County and State officials to educate and adapt practices in alignment with the recommendations of public health officials.

At the same time, lodging establishments across the city are stepping up to provide lodging to the houseless population, many in partnership with Multnomah County but also across the state, as well as providing shelter to stranded travelers, medical workers, business travelers and those needing social isolation within a hotel room during this time. This is a vital and essential service that cannot be interrupted without catastrophic impact to those groups and our broader efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, restaurants in some areas provide roughly half of the regular food supply to residents. In some cases, there are low-income food deserts in which access to grocery stores is either limited or nonexistent. A full-scale elimination of that subsistence supply chain would cause dramatic food insecurity in those communities and across our broader city. Those impacts could be devastating and detrimental to these communities.

We are asking you to help define these lodging establishments and takeout/delivery/drive-thru food establishments in Portland as essential services during any shelter in place order.

This is vital to ensure housing and food security for the millions of Oregonians under your leadership. ORLA stands by as a full partner to you and public health officials in ensuring these services can be operated in alignment with the precautionary and protective measures needed during this time.

Thank you again for your leadership during this difficult time.