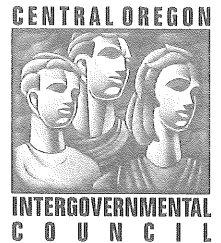


March 20, 2020

Senator Arnie Roblan, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Oregon Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response



*Everywhere
Central Oregon
Works*

RE: COIC Input re: Coronavirus Response

Dear Senator Roblan and Representative Holvey:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for this process. Here are a list of ideas generated by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) and our member jurisdictions representing Crook, Jefferson, Deschutes Counties; Cities of Madras, Culver, Metolius, Redmond, Sisters, Bend, La Pine, Prineville, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to help our response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Establish a **Business Recovery Center website** in each region of the state incorporating local, state, and federal resources for business (similar to what the Bend Chamber of Commerce is developing now).
- Remember to utilize **regional COGs and Economic Development Districts** as a means to deliver resources and leverage multiple resources.
- Consider converting the **kicker from a tax credit to a direct check to taxpayers**.
- Consider accessing **rainy day fund and other reserves to directly support businesses** affected by current and any future **executive order-impacted businesses**.
- Convene a discussion about how to **utilize TRT funds** to support the lodging industry over the short run - **without undermining essential services** (such as law enforcement) that are also served by TRT funds as well as the need to eventually begin marketing tourism again to help with their recovery.
- If a statewide **shelter in place order** goes into effect, please consider **variable requirements for sparsely-populated regions** vs. dense areas (no one-size-fits-all solution).

Here are two additional ideas that are less directly-related to economic development:

- **Support health and human service non-profits** in the same way we are trying to support businesses: we have dozens of local non-profits that are stretching themselves very thin to continue providing services to our most vulnerable. They will need financial assistance.
- **Delay grant reporting deadlines and project timelines** (e.g. we have dozens of STIF projects that all require grant reporting) and consider holding off on posting any new competitive grant notices until we all have time to respond to such.
- Transportation/Public Transit specific: Allow each Qualified Entity to treat all COVID-19 expenses as a new eligible "COVID-19" Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund project within every State approved STIF plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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