



Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response
900 NE Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Arnie Roblan and Paul Holvey

In a continuation of the previous submission we're passing on additional items that reflect the concerns of local officials regarding where the State of Oregon could move to provide relief for individuals, businesses, local governments and non-profits in East Multnomah County.

Gresham, like many municipalities have passed legislation to halt evictions, both commercial and residential, when there is documentation that the coronavirus measures can be shown to have had the deciding impact. While it is important to do this statewide it would also be helpful to protect the property owners who have invested in rental properties and are still on the hook for mortgage payments, insurance, taxes, maintenance, repairs, and, in some instances, employees.

The following suggestions are meant to be TEMPORARY during the crisis. The goal is cash availability as fast as possible in order to protect businesses.

- Delay implementation of the new Corporate Activities Tax for at least the first quarter and potentially the second quarter pending the length of the coronavirus crisis.
- Create tax credit for restaurants and lodging operations
- Put in place a moratorium on the weight mile for trucking firms playing a major role in delivering supplies.
- Extend tax filing deadlines.
- Relax predictive scheduling requirements and enact moratorium on penalties.
- Prioritize the stability and accessibility of the Unemployment insurance fund.
 - Create immediate access for workers displaced by business closures and slow downs.
 - Eliminate job search requirements for unemployment insurance.
 - Eliminate one week waiting periods for benefits.
 - Protect employers from increased rates and penalties when employees make claims for unemployment due to reduced hours or business closures.
- Extend deadlines or lift requirements for regulations that are impossible and not practical to comply with during this crisis. For instance, training requirements when training can't be delivered.
- Have Business Oregon prioritize businesses impacted by the virus crisis for low and no interest loan assistance.
- Parents are wondering what will happen with the closure of schools. A temporary forgiveness of required days of school will help ease some of the worry for parents. Seniors graduating are



worried as well. Even if school were to resume during the summer to complete the required days, would that would help seniors with their qualifications to get into college?

- Private sector employees will need a clear definition of essential employee, should be asked to shelter in place.
- We need intermittent reports on the progress from the group working on an economic recovery plans, the might sooth anxious business owners.
- More outreach that reinforces the need for social responsibility with young people not feeling the immediacy of this crisis.
- Updates on progress in testing--including the acquisition of testing and on the effort to secure more protective gear for hospitals.

Thank you for reaching out. As I'm sure you know we are busy doing everything we can to help our small business during this shutdown. Beyond the ramifications of slow to no business for owners and employees, I am concerned with the temporary lodging tax (TLT) funding.

The West Columbia Gorge Chamber and Visitor Center is mostly funded by the Lodging tax and we rely heavily on that income to keep our doors open for members and the visitors to the West Columbia Gorge. As a leader at a local Destination Management Organization (DMO) I urge you to lift the sunset and maintain the statewide TLT at 1.8%.

Thank you in advance for considering the perspectives of my constituent communities and the people that represent them. I hope they are helpful especially in quantifying and shaping the policies that can lift us up in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Representative Chris Gorsek PhD.

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