

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey and Roblan,

As a business owner in ASHLAND, OR. I am writing today to share the impacts the current COVID-19 health crisis is having on my business, my employees and my family.

Ashland is a town oriented towards tourism. I have been in business for 38 years, and while I have faced many struggles as a woman business owner during this time, the economic shut down of tourism could spell the end of my business and my community. My long time employee is faced with financial challenges paying his rent and living expenses since he is not working at this time, and I am unable to financially help, due to the complete lack of business. Winter bills have drawn down many of our bank accounts, with the expectation that the seasonal tourism will replenish our coffers. That is not happening this year. It is all going out, with nothing coming in to pay mortgages, utilities, etc.. Our product is tourists and they are not here! A government loan will help businesses temporarily, but the debt incurred will be another added burden.

These are hard times for all of us. I encourage you to support our business community as we deal with the astonishing economic disruption that has accompanied this health crisis.

Sincerely,

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