

Senator Roblan and Oregon Legislature,

As coastal residents it was very frightening to watch both newscasts this evening showing how people are not adhering to Governor Brown's directive to stay home. Both channel 8 (KGW) and channel 6 (KOIN) had stories showing many visitors still coming to the Oregon Coast and not practicing social distancing in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Traffic looked like a holiday weekend or summer season with lines of traffic streaming into the coast on highway 101. The Pelican Brew Pub in Pacific City had a full parking lot and many visitors lining the coastline not even close to six feet away from each other.

I was incredulous as I had watched the throngs of young people on the beaches of Florida the night before for their spring break and here this evening I watched as our own Oregon coast is being overrun by hordes of tourists during a pandemic. No one seems to care or listen to what is being said about this disease.

This is frightening because so many of our coastal residents are senior citizens many with pre-existing conditions that make their immune systems already compromised and COVID-19 has the potential to harm them greatly, or worse, take their lives. Oregon Legislature, you must take this threat seriously and stop visitors from coming to the coast at this dangerous time. Our healthcare system cannot handle the influx of visitors, our stores cannot handle the hordes of people taking limited supplies from coastal residents who have no other options but the local stores. Most of these people are not locals, they drove here from elsewhere (I encourage you to view Wayne M.'s letter to the editor on NewsLincolnCounty online for more specifics).

Please help Governor Brown enact the shelter in place order statewide so this crisis does not become a disaster. And tell people to stay home and not visit the coast or any other destinations other than their home.

Respectfully,

Michele Riley, Depoe Bay, Oregon