

Just got this email and hope it gets to the the Oregon Legislature.

Small business needs help! My name is Calvin Walsh and I own a food service distribution company, we supply over 100 independently owned and operated restaurants in the Pacific Northwest. After having conversations with them what they need is availability to access cash. They need cash not only for payroll but all the other expenses, and it adds up. There is no option for a small business: They for the most part are too small for line of credits or like me before we switched banks were using local community credit unions that do not offer that. It is not possible to use conventional lending, it takes too long of a process and banks are running delays. There are plenty of sharks offering loans with OUTRAGEOUS interest rates, and unfortunately due to lack of leadership in our government some out of desperation will take that option.

I applied for an emergency loan from the SBA and as of last Friday (03/20/20) both Multnomah and Clackamas county were not of the list of areas that could apply, so I do not have access to that.

Furthermore, on a national lever we have immediate bailouts for ultra large corporations, huge cash influx without strings or restrictions and direct cash for individuals... what do small businesses get? Maybe a loan with marginal interest and hopefully a quick turnaround... if anyone thinks about small business as an afterthought.

I hope that the State Legislators understand the stress this is going to put on Oregon Small businesses. A complete shutdown for the food and beverage industry followed by the inevitable recession could be a disaster for the independent restaurant owners. Without swift action from the State Legislator we could be left with our "food scene" decimated, the fallout would be large corporations taking over.

Imagine for a moment grabbing lunch and your options being only chain restaurants... You have the ability to either protect small business owners or allow them to become a thing of the past in Oregon.

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Calvin Russell Walsh
CEO Unity Foods
(503) 683-1776
www.unityfoodsllc.com
www.facebook.com/unityfoods



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