

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Denny Doyle
City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson
City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado
City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper
City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax
City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel
City of Gladstone

Mayor Shane Bemis
City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis
City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway
City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson
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Mayor Kent Studebaker
City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie
City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba
City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan
City of North Plains

Mayor Dan Holladay
City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler
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Mayor Walt Williams
City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays
City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider
City of Tigard

Mayor Casey Ryan
City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik
City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle
City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Russ Axelrod
City of West Linn

Mayor Tim Knapp
City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden
City of Wood Village

Honorable Governor Kate Brown

Senator Arnie Roblan

Representative Paul Holvey

Co-Chairs, Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 9730

Re: Residential and Commercial Eviction Moratorium

Honorable Governor Brown, Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey and
Members of the Joint Special Committee On Coronavirus Response:

The mayors of the 25 cities in the Portland Metro Area want to express our gratitude to the Governor for placing a temporary moratorium on residential evictions for nonpayment in light of the public health emergency caused by the spread of coronavirus in Oregon. It is critical that Oregonians do not lose their homes because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your decisive action to address this issue.

The mayors of the MMC remain concerned about the businesses in our communities. The coronavirus crisis has had a significant impact on our local economies—affecting retail, restaurants and other industries and resulting in economic hardships for local business owners as well as layoffs and reduced work hours for a significant percentage of this workforce. Many small businesses in our cities have closed temporarily, and some of them will never reopen. The survival of these businesses is essential to retaining jobs in our cities and spurring the recovery from this crisis.

As mayors, we fear that these economic challenges will be compounded by the evictions of our businesses that can no longer afford to pay rent, and we feel a responsibility to take action to help prevent Oregonians from losing their businesses because of the coronavirus crisis. To that end, **the mayors of the MMC request that the State enact a temporary moratorium on all commercial evictions in Oregon for nonpayment of rent due to loss of business income as a result of COVID-19.**

Businesses owners seeking to avoid eviction should be required to demonstrate substantial loss of business income through documentation or other objectively verifiable means, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We propose that tenants still have the liability for unpaid rent which landlords may seek, and tenants must pay within a six-months after expiration of the emergency moratorium. It is critical that no late fees be charged or collected for rent that is delayed for the reasons stated in this moratorium.

During these challenging times, we are doing everything in our power to protect the health, safety and livelihoods of people in our cities. A statewide commercial eviction moratorium would greatly help to ensure that our residents do not lose their businesses as they try to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Shane Bemis

Mayor, City of Gresham

Chair, Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium