



June 5, 2020

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Dear Honorable Senate President Courtney, Honorable Speaker Kotek, and Members of the Oregon Emergency Board,

OSCC applauds the allocation of \$10,000,000 to provide personal protective equipment, or PPE, at no cost to Oregon's struggling small businesses. PPE has been in high demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these supplies (masks, shields, alcohol wipes, hand sanitizer etc.) are hard to find right now. Access to PPE is critical to allow main street businesses to safely begin the process of resuming operations after dealing with the effects of the pandemic. The Emergency Board appropriation of \$10,000,000 to small businesses will help alleviate that problem.

Local area chambers appreciate the opportunity to partner with the state and private sector to distribute critical PPE and sanitation supplies to our small business community. PPE is crucial to preventing infections in workplaces that cannot operate remotely, including those in the retail, personal services, and hospitality. Our business community is working to open our doors responsibly, but one of the biggest needs is PPE and other tools that are necessary to support cleanliness and social distancing guidelines in the workplace. We hope this effort will help small businesses safely reopen and rebuild employee and consumer confidence following this disaster.

Access to PPE also is a critical step in getting Oregonians back to work. For small businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought challenges they could never have anticipated. In addition to struggles staying afloat under new public health guidelines, small businesses are also struggling to find much-needed PPE for employees as operations ramp back up. The sooner we can get these supplies to our business owners, the sooner they can provide protection to their employees and start operating again.

With this Emergency Board allocation, Oregon joins other states around the country in supporting small businesses—helping to supply scarce PPE to local business owners. We hope that this effort, in turn, allows our local economies to rebound. Employers need this support, and OSCC members stand ready to partner with the state to distribute PPE free of charge to our struggling local businesses.

We appreciate this \$10,000,000 appropriation and recognition of the value of PPE assistance to Oregon's small businesses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Mikkelsen".

Vonnie Mikkelsen  
OSCC Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JL Wilson".

JL Wilson  
Legislative Counsel