

From: [Clary Sage Herbarium](#)
To: [Exhibits JSCVR](#)
Subject: Updated letter
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:52:05 PM

> Hello. I am an owner of a Portland small business.

> We have been in business for 10 years this June. We have moved four times during our growth period. We moved from a 80sqft space in 2011 to a 180sq ft 2012 space, to an 350 sq ft space in 2016- finally into a 900sq ft building doubling our rent and utilities in 2019. We pay \$2500. A month plus \$300 in NNN. After moving our sales last year went down 40k+ putting us in the red. We have been struggling this year already.

> We currently employ four employees. We have decided to shorten our open hours (pick up only) and only have one staff working per day. I want to make sure we are all getting some hours.

> I am super concerned about our U.I increase if we should have to lay off / work share program anyone. We already pay 1/3 of our payroll in taxes not to mention the added expense of payroll service fees and worker's compensation insurance. And it looks like all loans being offered have interest. I feel we were already hitting a recession- now this. Our rent is unreasonable As our most Portland commercial rents and I have all my employees being paid over the almost newly mandatory \$15. an hour.

> So my ideas are:

- >> *Freezing the current min wage. So business have a chance to catch up. If businesses can not afford wages- we cannot provide jobs.
- >> *Give landlords tax breaks and incentives to temporarily lower our commercial rents or NNN.
- >> *State grant funds to Oregon business with 2 or more employees for one to two 2 months.
- >> *State funded loan programs that you does not require interest.
- >> *Free Medicare for the uninsured.

> I honestly, do not know what our community will look like after all this. The trickle down effect will be insane and really tragic. Owning a business is often a labor of love as I have paid myself what quantifies to about \$12. an hour while I pay my employees \$15-18. Hr. I know I will probably be one of the businesses that have given so much to the community from the love of my heart for 10 years to now have to close my doors for good. Many of us just can't fathom the set back.

> I hope you find one or a few of my ideas helpful moving forward. We built this city on blood, sweat, tears and most of all love.

Sent with