

From: Bruce Daucsavage
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:54 AM
To: JISS.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: COVID Liability business

To: Members of the Joint Interim Committee on The First
Special Session of 2020.

Subject : COVID Liability Protection

To : Co-Chair Courtney
Members of the Committee

My name is Bruce Daucsavage. I am the General Director of Ochoco Lumber Company operating in Grant and Crook Counties. We are a small wood products production & timber land company doing business for over 90 years in rural Oregon . Currently we have 96 employees.

Never in our long operating history have we faced the uncertainty of potential lawsuits from employees and customers due to the vulnerability of the effects of COVID -19 . In our attempt to keep our employees working in our communities we have experienced confusion, uncertainty and fear from supervisors to line workers. And as owners, will we be a target of litigation for years to come, even if we adhere to the recommendations of the CDC, Governor Browns executive orders and agency mandates ?

We feel confident we have followed safety precautions, to the best of our ability, but understand that these guidelines are not always strictly followed by unconcerned employees. For example, in attempting to limit virus exposure to our workers we instituted restrictions in our lunch rooms. We limited the number of workers, sealed the microwave ovens and placed signs stating "Do not Use ". When these restrictions were not followed we ended up cutting the electrical cords. The results, employees brought in their own micro-waves. Frustration and concerns of the chances of spreading to family members lead us to disciplinary actions. What are our protections from potential liability when we are following suggested guidelines ?

We are not asking full protection for allowing gross negligence or willful misconduct by a few disconcerting operators. Safety is job one in the wood products industry and those companies that do not follow precautions in a proper manner don't survive .

Please address these important protections for businesses when these Oregon companies are following mandated safety guidelines.

Thank you for your time.

Bruce Daucsavage
General Director
Ochoco Lumber Company