

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Peter Courtney
Senate President
900 Court St. NE, S-201
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek
House Speaker
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear President Courtney , Speaker Kotek and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on The First Special Session,

We are independent restaurants in Oregon. Without your immediate assistance, **one in four of us will not be able to re-open.**

Although we are now permitted to open our doors, we are faced with the additional challenges of keeping our staff and guests safe which we can only do with limited success until a vaccine is available for SARS-CoV-2. Our ability to generate revenue will be severely compromised due to social distancing procedures and reduced occupancies. Tourism will be limited and even our local customers have expressed hesitation about returning to our dining rooms.

When we closed our doors we ripped a hole in the supply chain negatively impacting the farmers, ranchers, fisherpeople, winemakers, brewers -- the hundreds of small businesses that put food and drink on our tables. Our closure also impacted service providers from linen to floral to sanitation that depend on our business. Providing the independent restaurants the tools we need to recover from the pandemic will knit together the supply chain from root to roof top and revitalize communities in every corner of the state.

We appreciate the remarkable work the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association has done since March and we echo their requests for:

- **Launching "To-Go" Cocktails in Oregon**
- **Extending Oregon's Commercial Eviction Moratorium**
- **Protecting the Statewide Lodging Tax for Tourism Promotion at 1.8 Percent**
- **Advancing Liability Protections for Oregon's Restaurants and Lodging Establishments**

We differ regarding employee compensation, and support the continuation of minimum wage increases as currently scheduled. As we've seen in the past few months minimum wage employees are the first to be deemed essential, and they risk their health and the health of their families to ensure that we have access to transportation, health care and food.

We've also identified other mechanisms the legislature could provide to ensure that independent restaurants remain in business, they are:

- Create a grant program for companies with fewer than 100 employees to provide financial assistance specifically to meet the needs of employer-sponsored **health care coverage** for employees.
- Suspend payroll tax and required retirement account contributions. Payroll Tax Relief is critical once restaurants begin to reopen. This will allow restaurants to hire back more employees on a steeper ramp up while retaining some small margin of profitability. This allows for temporary 'over employment' of restaurants during the rebuilding phase.
- Defer all city and state business taxes for Small Businesses. For businesses with up to \$7M in gross receipts, defer payment of quarterly business taxes due April 30, 2020, nine months to February 2021 with no interest or penalties.
- Provide prioritized COVID testing at no charge to hospitality employees.
- Permit restaurants to sell alcohol to customers for pickup or delivery (beer, wine, cider, pre-mixed cocktails) beyond the dining room closure order. This will provide a much needed, alternative revenue stream during the extensive recovery period.

We ask that you take action now. We understand and appreciate that this special session has many urgent priorities, should consideration for small business not be taken up now we will most certainly be out of business before a second Special Session is called.

Our industry and our state have overcome adversity before; armed with the right tools, we can do it again.

Gratefully & Hopefully,

Oregon Independent Restaurant Owners + Operators

Marcus Oliver	Miss delta restaurant	Portland 97227
Dayna McErlean	Yakuza Izakaya	Portland, 97211
Elizabeth Davis	Xico and Xico Cantina	Portland, 97202
Matt Lynch	SuperDeluxe, Snappy's, Boxer Ramen, Wing Blazers	Portland, 97266
Katy Connors	Hat Yai	Portland, 97214
Peter Bro	Broder Restaurant Group	Portland 97202
Dana Frank	Bar Norman	Portland 97202

Ricky Gomez	Palomar	Portland, 97214
Alan Booth	Ava Gene's	Portland, 97202
Dayna McErlean	Yakuza Izakaya	Portland, 97211
Will Fain	Handsome Pizza & Seastar Bakery	Portland, 97211
Jana DeCarli	decarli restaurant	Beaverton 97005
Courtney Hulbert	Jinx	Portland 97211
Aaron Barnett	St. Jack / La moule	Portland 97210
Tommy Klus	Scotch Lodge	Portland 97214
Kristin Kluvers	August Wine Group	Portland, 97222
Summer Triato	Bar West	Portland, 97209
Christine Black	Podnah's Pit Barbecue	Portland
Nicholas Suhor	Nostrana	Portland, 97214
Annalisa Maceda	Campana	Portland 97211
Maya Lovelace	Yonder & Mae restaurants	Portland, 97218
Aaron Adams	Farm Spirit LLC	Portland 97214
Stacey Gibson	Park Avenue Fine Wines	Portland 97205
Jonathan Poteet	Shine Distillery & Grill	Portland 97217
Brent Richford	Taqueria nueve	Portland 97214
Kurt Huffman	ChefStable	Portland, 97214
Heather Brazille	Tastebud	Portland, 97219
Christy Bennett-Hanes	Rock Creek Corner	Portland 97229
Stacey Gibson	Park Avenue Fine Wines	Portland 97205
Beth Biffetta	Business Works Inc	Portland 97215
Julie Basham	Twist Cocktail Catering Co	Portland, 97701
Naomi Pomeroy	Beast	Portland, 97211
Juli Hamdan	Joolz	Bend 97703
nancye benson	milk glass mrkt	portland 97217
Joe Frade	The Liquid Courage Corp.	Portland, 97214
Greg and Gabi Denton	Ox Restaurant and Bistro Agnes	Portland

Celeste Brady	Extracto Coffee Roasters	Portland 97211
Emily Mistell	Hey Love	Portland, 97214
Michael and Dionne	Vali's Alpine Restaurant	Joseph 97846
	Noble Rot Restaurant & Wine Bar	
Courtney Storrs		Portland 97206
Sonya Sanford	Beetroot Market & Deli	Portland, 97209
Brian Murphy	Nostrana	Portland 97214
Erika Polmar	Plate & Pitchfork	Joseph 97846
	Noble Rot Restaurant & Wine Bar	
Courtney Storrs		Portland 97206
Shannon Twomey	Southern glazers	Portland, 97211
Caryn and Mike Nelson	Guilder/Junior's Roasted Coffee	Portland 97212
Michael Nelson	Guilder	Portland 97212
Elizabeth Nathan	Eb & Bean	Portland 97211
Carrie Jizmagian	The Nightwood Society	Portland 97232
Katherine Prevost	Jam on Hawthorne	Portland, 97214
Andrew Ricker	Pok Pok	Portland 97202
Grant Schuberg	Trademark Lumber Co Inc	Portland 97212
Erika Schroeder	Deeda Foods	Portland, 97214
Kir Jensen	The Sugar Cube	Portland, 97217
Keith Morris	Coopers Hall	Portland 97214
Han Ly Hwang	Kim Jong Grillin	Portland, 97206
Jesica Michels	Jesica Michels	Portland 97206
Jennifer Quist	Holler Hospitality	Portland
Samuel Smith	Tusk	Portland, 97211
Lauren Chandler	Lauren Chandler Cooks	Portland
Dana Blaney	Trilogy Wellness	Portland, 97215
Kat Stock	Hey Love	Portland 97214
Michael Miller	The Triple Lindy	Portland 97209
Dana Delaski	Filmsnax	Portland, 97211
Joseph Guth	Retired	Portland 97213
juli hamdan	joolz llc	BEND, 97703

Jamie North	Mix Bakeshop	Ashland, 97520
Wendy A. Garcia	Elemental Energy	Portland 97217
Karla Nolt	Jet Black Coffee Co.	Portland 97220
Olivia Losby	Old Town Café Inc	Joseph 97846
Lila DeBenedetti	Talk Story LLC	Newberg, 97132
Jessica Rattner	Jessica Rattner Dressage	Newberg, 97132
Chris Dickey	45 north Investments	Salem, 97304
Kelly Clarke	Em Dash Communications	Portland 97213
Brian Lew	FirenzaPizza Portland	Tigard 97223
Judi Free	ERA	Portland, 97210
Emily Andrews	Wood Fired Eats	Portland, 97203
Christina Rosalie	Skylight Collective	Portland, 97211
Kellie Phinney	Maurice	Portland
Johnny Sullivan	Cafe Gertrude	Portland, 97211
Lisa beam	Pie + Vine, Sesame Asian Kitchen, Falafel Republic	Ashland, 97520
Thomas Beam	Pie + Vine, Sesame Asian Kitchen, Falafel Republic	Ashland, 97520
Sam Purvis	Good Coffee LLC	Portland 97210
Shelbey Campbell Lett	Submarine Hospitality	Portland, 97202
Scott King	Twenty First Ave Kitchen and Bar, R&R Bar	Portland, 97209
Kimberly Boyce	Bakeshop	Portland 97213
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Jacqueline Carey	Celilo Restaurant and Bar	Hood River,97031
Andrew Scott Young	Grey Fox Bakehouse	Portland, 97201
Joy Nair	White Summers Caffee & James LLP	Portland, 97205
McKinzy calapp	Beast restaurant	Portland 97266
Jason wittek	Wolf's Head BBQ, LLC	Portland, 97211
Perla Martinez	Portland Urban Properties Group	Portland 97217

Lindsey Jacobson	Rosy Collective LLC	Portland, 97211
Michelle Loftus	3rd Floor Cafe	Portland, 97216
Ken Narcavage	Oregon Culinary Institute	Portland 97223
Lissa Kane	Lucca	Portland, 97212
Bj Smith	Smokehouse Tavern	Portland 97214
Katie Hughes	Katie Olson Consulting	Portland 97203
Jane Hashimawari	Ippaipdx	Portland 97212
Scott King	Twenty First Ave Kitchen and Bar, R&R Bar	Portland, 97209
Brandon Purifoy	Tusk	Portland, 97202
Casey McHugh	Urban Farmer	Portland, p97214
Josh Evans	Consumer	Portland 97217
Jordan	Culberson	Portland 97217
Nathan DeVol	Dog River Coffee	Hood River, 97031
Tuyen Phan	40 LBS Coffee Bar	Portland, 97204
Nattanop ninsom	John Street Cafe	Portland, 97203
Lily Tollefsen	Radar Restaurant	Portland 97227
George Koop	Koop Kitchen	Portland, 97217
Andrew Fortgang	Le Pigeon & Canard	Portland, 97214
Jonathan Grumbles	Portland Tacovore	Portland 97212
Katelyn Williams	Kate's Ice Cream	Portland, 97232
Gabrielle Quiñónez Denton	Ox Restaurant and Bistro Agnes	Portland 97212
Lucian Prellwitz	Beast	Portland, 97211
Veronica Fregoso	IBM	Portland, 97229
leslie melin	Oh	portland 97209
G parolari	Luce	Portland 97214
Primo Williams	Self Small Business	Portland
Shelby Locke	Salt	Lincoln City 97367
Andre Jones	Andre Jones Photography	Portland 97210
Lynn dusek	Citizen	Portland, 97214
Andrew Howard	Luce Restaurant	Portland, 97212

Katie Sombat	Beast	Portland 97211
Morgan Deeks	Beast	Portland, 97266
Thomas A Kamis	The Davis Restaurant & Bar	Eugene, 97401
Yes	Fournier Group	Portland 97204
Bianca Youngers	Binks	Portland Oregon
Delane Blackstock	Dove Vivi	Portland
Scott King	Twenty First Ave Kitchen and Bar, R&R Bar	97209
Kate McMillen	Lauretta Jean's	Portland, 97202
Ian Skomski	Kusshi NW	Bend 97701
Nick Griffin	White Water Taphouse	Bend, OR 97703
Peter Cho	Han Oak	Portland, 97232
Ashley Brummett	VARIOUS	97209
Scott A Byers	Ronin Sushi LLC.	Bend, 97702
Marcus Oliver	Miss delta	Portland, 97227
Emily metivier	Masia	Portland 97205
Erica parker	Trattoria sbandati	Bend 97703
Mary Thomas	Trattoria Sbandati	Bend 97702
Megan Sanchez	Güero	Portland, 97232
Kiana lee	Muse Cheesecakes	Portland 97232
Anna Kuzmin	Gather Restaurant	Silverton, 97381
Cassie Kading	Wander & Feast Events	Eugene, 97405
Sara Woods	Vaux Restaurant	Portland, 97209
Cori Hamilton	Velvet Lounge	Bend, 97702
Jonathan Stach	Willamette View	Milwaukie, 97222
Jessica Brown	Pretty Sweet Sugaring	Portland, 97210
Jane Smith	Dame Restaurant	Portland, OR
Nick Griffin	Whaite Water Taphouse	Bend, OR 97703