

July 13, 2020

Senate President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
House Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
Legislative Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Speaker Kotek, President Courtney, and Emergency Board Members:

Thank you for your leadership and service to our state during these challenging times. We deeply appreciate your recent Emergency Board actions to deploy \$10 Million in Emergency Small Business Assistance plus \$3 Million in Technical Assistance for minority- and women-owned businesses. These investments will directly help Oregon businesses that are struggling due to COVID-19. But our state's small businesses, who employ 55% of Oregon's private sector workforce, still need additional state help.

Oregon Small Business United (OSBU) has come together as diverse organizations serving small businesses across Oregon. We **request that the Emergency Board invest at least \$25 Million more in federal Coronavirus Relief funds into Emergency Business Assistance**. This \$25 Million will not solve all problems facing Oregon small businesses, but it will ensure that more of those businesses are able to survive this challenging economy and emerge ready to provide jobs to Oregonians and critical services to their communities.

We also request that you make the following **policy adjustments** to the Emergency Business Assistance Fund to ensure that this relief makes it to Oregon's most under-served businesses:

- 1) Allow businesses who received some federal financial assistance to be eligible for these state funds. Some Oregon small businesses received very small amounts of federal aid (as little as a \$1,000 EIDL loan) and those businesses should qualify for state help.
- 2) Remove the requirement for a local funding match. Many communities across Oregon have exhausted the dollars that could be available to match this state program, but the small businesses in those communities still have significant need.
- 3) Include 501(c)(6) non-profit organizations to be eligible recipients of state funds.
- 4) Ensure resources are available to assist organizations cover the costs of administering this program. Many organizations that are best able to serve struggling businesses are already at capacity and need additional resources to implement this relief.
- 5) Allow businesses that can demonstrate a decline in revenue as compared against the same period of time in 2019 to be eligible for funds. This will help support businesses that rely more on seasonal revenue that might not be captured by comparing to a month earlier in 2020.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Our coalition appreciates your leadership and service and we stand ready to be your resource on issues facing Oregon's small businesses.

Sincerely,

Oregon Small Business United (OSBU)



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