

Hello—

My name is Ezra Caraeff and I own four bars in the Portland area. I was told to send in my testimonial regarding Cocktails-to-go:

This year, I have personally added nearly 100 names to the Oregon unemployment registry. First, in March, on the onset of COVID-19 when the state rightfully shutdown, I laid off close to 50 people across our four establishments. We were back open in July with our full staff, but as cases climbed and the weather worsened, our stopgap measures—contactless remote ordering, tents, propane heaters—weren't enough to keep our doors open and we closed again in early November, propelling our entire staff back into unemployment.

In March I promised everyone their job back.
I wasn't able to make that promise in November.

Cocktails-to-go will not save *all* these jobs. But they will save some, in addition to offering salvation to four businesses that are currently closed (yet are offered zero rental relief from our respective landlords). A responsible system of allowing customers of proper drinking age to purchase beverages to be safely consumed at home will be enough for our businesses, and countless others, to keep the lights on through this difficult time. We do not take this request lightly, but our businesses need help and allowing cocktails-to-go will be enough for so many of us who are weary of the financial ruin that awaits us when our respective bank accounts soon run dry.

Thank you.

Ezra A. Caraeff

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