



SIMNITT NURSERY

June 25, 2020

To: Joint Committee on the First Special Session
From: Jim Simnitt Co-owner of Simnitt Nursery
Re: House Bill 4112-Ammend to include liability Protection

Good Morning Co-Chairs Kotek and Courtney,

My name is Jim Simnitt co-owner of Simnitt Nursery in Canby, Or and I urge you to support the inclusion of COVID-19 liability protections in House Bill 4212 that would provide temporary and targeted liability protection to businesses adhering to state and federal public health guidelines and rules to reduce risk to COVID-19 exposure.

Governor Brown's quick action this past spring has helped Oregon lead the pack in flattening the COVID-19 curve. With this executive order have come a regulatory environment that has created immense liability and uncertainty for the public and private employers. While we are trying to our best efforts keep our employees and families working with mitigating the exposure risk of COVID-19 we are still face a possibility of a lawsuit accusing that we did not go far enough.

As a nursery we have been working full time through this pandemic. We are working hand in hand with our employees to set up new protocols that we all agree is best management practices. With the new OHSA guidelines starting this month we have already implemented most, if not all of the new temporary rules, being in place months ago.

With the increased costs of running a business during a pandemic and the unknown economy going forward, I fear a lawsuit at this time could cripple my family business with huge detrimental effects. I urge you to support the amendment to provide liability protections in HB 4212.

Thank you,

Jim Simnitt

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