

To Whom it May Concern:

I have a small restaurant in the Eugene area. My husband and I opened 6 years ago, and have worked very hard day and night to build our customer base. We gradually built a successful business with many wonderful customers that come from all around the Eugene area. In March of this year we were finally at the point that most evenings you would need a reservation to dine with us. We have grown to employing 7 part-time employees, who are like family to us. At that time we were forced to close and let all of our employees go. We are a dinner only restaurant, serving fresh fish, local beef and lamb and fresh pasta dishes, which are not really suited to take out meals. We re-opened in May as soon as we were allowed to. We were blessed that all of our employees returned to help us continue. It had been a hard time for all of us, financially and emotionally. It has been a struggle to bring back the business that we had built. Many customers returned to us, although many were still afraid to dine out. We were just beginning to feel as though we were on our way to a full recovery when we were forced to close again. We had to let 4 of our employees go, and kept 3 to help us try to do take out. Some nights we have no customers, other nights a few of our local customers that are trying to support us. We are not making enough to barely cover our payroll, let alone food cost etc. We are still in debt from the last close down and are now just digging a deeper hole. I feel that it is an injustice to force us and thousands of other restaurants to close our doors, taking away our ability to make an honest living and also doing the same to our employees. I do not know how we will be able to hang on, how long is Kate Brown going to keep us shut down. There is no scientific proof that in-door dining is spreading Covid-19. If hundreds of people can shop at Costco, Target, Walmart and all of the other large companies, we should be allowed to enjoy dinner out with our family and friends, with the safety requirements put in place. This restaurant is all that my husband and I have. We have worked very hard to build a successful business and it is sad to watch what is happening to our industry.

Thank you for your time.

Bonnie Ferrara

Cioppino House Restaurant