

LC10 and the state of the restaurant industry

We in the restaurant industry are suffering terribly due to the pandemic. I understand the necessity for the shutdowns we are experiencing but wish we would have shut down everything except grocery stores with limited access (ie like the gas crisis) only on certain days based on last name.

For economic necessity, we need everyone to wear a mask, socially distance, stay home and avoid crowds both at home and in public. We then could continue to employ your friends, neighbors and relatives.

I work with small restaurants in Oregon, California, Washington, Idaho and Nebraska.

I have been in the business for 45 years and used to own 40 restaurants in California and Oregon. I am working with a coalition of operators on a proposal of how to be open with all social distancing requirements met and all other public health directives followed in our industry. We need to have the opportunity to work with the legislators and public health to discuss viable ways for us to be open while protecting both our employees and guests.

In regards to LC 10, please allow us to serve alcoholic beverages to go. This has been a great economic engine in California for the restaurant industry. We are careful to have sealed containers and our guests love being able to add our signature cocktails to their meals. This has helped them make the decision to order from us rather than buying pre-made food from grocers which are our primary competition at this time for the food dollar.

Our sales were able to increase 25-30% with the addition of alcoholic beverage sales.

Our industry has always been resilient. This is the worst situation we have ever been faced with in my lifetime. It is anticipated that 60-70% of restaurants will not survive this pandemic. We are the 2nd largest employer in the US. Restaurant employees have a wide range of income with the average being much higher than the majority of the public understands. We are a great economic driver of the economy.

Please help us by passing LC10.

Please also reach out as we would love to have a place at the table.

Thank you,

Susan Baker

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Columbia County Natural