



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

December 17, 2020

Senate President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
House Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, and Members of the Joint Committee,

This pandemic is the biggest public health crisis of our lifetimes and we are all taking the necessary steps to slow the spread while stabilizing individuals, families, and small businesses. But more must be done to help our communities endure these challenges. Thank you for heeding the call and working to provide critical aid to Oregonians as we approach the expiration of important state and federal lifelines. We appreciate the continued efforts of the Oregon Legislature to protect and support Oregonians through the COVID-19 public health and economic crises.

We are immensely concerned about the possibility of a wave of evictions and destabilization of the housing market. To this end, the City of Portland directed 95 percent of its Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars directly to the community or jurisdictional partners and provided housing and business supports, food security, household assistance and other measures to keep Oregonians housed and stable through this pandemic. Extending the eviction moratorium is a critical part of this strategy and will prevent mass evictions in the peak of the pandemic and provide necessary stability in the housing market. The current eviction moratorium is working. States that lifted moratoriums have experienced 2.1 times more COVID-19 cases and 5.4 more deaths than Oregon. We must stand firm to prevent a new wave of homeless children, families, and individuals. We urge passage of LC 18 to extend the moratorium and provide needed rent assistance to landlords and tenants.

Oregon businesses and non-profits are struggling to survive and adapt during this protracted public health emergency. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. Keeping restaurants and their employees afloat during COVID-19 is key to supporting local economies and ready us for the eventual recovery on the other side of the pandemic. We urge the Legislature to support LC 10 and its relief measures for restaurants by creating the opportunity to offer cocktails-to-go and regulate the fees charged by third-party delivery services.

The City of Portland supports additional funding to the Emergency Board to ensure sufficient provisions for ongoing emergency response, personal protective equipment, testing, and support

for vaccine distribution, which will be critical in the coming weeks and months. The City also strongly supports additional investments that center BIPOC communities in the state's public health and economic responses. Absent Congressional action, the cliff for existing lifelines is near on the horizon. We must be ready to meet the needs of Oregonians.

Thank you for taking action to extend needed safety nets and supports before the end of the year. We are committed to preserving, protecting, restoring and rebuilding the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians. The City of Portland stands with you as a partner and is grateful to the state for acting with urgency and purpose.

Sincerely,



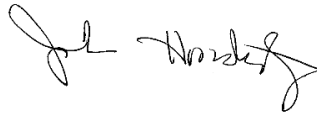
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