

Hello there,

My business owes over \$30,000 in back rent. On average, our revenues during the pandemic are down 41% from the prior year, and in certain months, have been as low as -65% from the prior year. Like many small businesses, we're hanging on by a thread, trying to wait long enough for the state and federal government to distribute the vaccines so that we can begin conducting business at levels we enjoyed before the pandemic hit.

We are a main street brick & mortar retailer who manufactures our product. We've built our business from the ground up. We currently employ 12 Oregonians with benefits, paid time off, health insurance, 401k. Prior to the pandemic, we employed 18. As owners, we have barely paid ourselves anything during the pandemic, getting by with what we are entitled to on PUA. We're putting our employees first.

As of this testimony, month to date, we are still operating at -40% from prior year revenues. We don't anticipate business picking up until herd immunity is achieved and probably a month or more after that, actually, as there will likely be some reluctance on the part of consumers while we all gain trust in the vaccines and our protection from COVID and all the variants mutations.

Please try and picture what a drop of -40% in your personal household budget would mean to your ability to pay mortgage, etc. Really stop and do the math... it would have real impacts, right?

We need more time to pay back deferred rent. The \$100M lottery for deferred rent will not be allocated before March 31. Neither will most of the funds from the Recovery Act be distributed before March 31. Beyond this, I'm reading the summary of this bill and it states "Prohibits termination of commercial tenancy for nonpayment if outstanding rent balance does not exceed rent deposit." Our balance due is around 3 months of full base rent + NNN and CAM and it far exceeds our security deposit. I'd imagine many others are in a very similar situation. No one has a security deposit that's 3+ months of full rent + NNN.

Please give us more time and then use that time to allocate funding to programs and work with our national delegation to secure Federal funding that will help stabilize our business and the businesses of so many others who are the economic and job creating engine of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
-Will Cervarich