

March 16, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Representative John Lively, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gresham supports commercial tenants and the extension of the repayment grace period established in HB 2413 last year. The City of Gresham urges your support of HB 2966.

The City of Gresham has been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Zip codes within the City have some of the highest rates of infection in the state. The City Council took emergency action on March 19, 2020, to bar commercial property owners from terminating commercial leases for any purpose connected to the declared state of emergency. Those violating the moratorium are denied a license to conduct business at their location for one year following the conclusion of the state of emergency. Many of Gresham’s renters, landlords, small businesses and property owners have depended on relief afforded through legislation and executive action and the City encourages ongoing relief through this period of crisis.

The City is hopeful that aid from Business Oregon’s Commercial Rent Relief Program and Federal funds from the recently passed American Rescue Plan can make a meaningful impact to support Oregon businesses that have suffered so greatly. For these businesses to benefit, we support extending the grace period from the current March 31, 2021 deadline.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge your support for HB 2966.

Sincerely,



Brian Monberg
Government Affairs Manager