



TO: John Lively, Chair, House Committee on Economic Recovery & Prosperity
FROM: Courtney Griesel, Economic Development Manager, City of Springfield
RE: HB 2966-1
DATE: March 16, 2021

The City of Springfield acknowledges the unprecedented impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our business community. We are working with economic development partners throughout the region and state to coordinate and advocate for resources responding to anticipated business community needs. As such, the City of Springfield appreciates the opportunity to provide our strong support for the -1 amendment to HB 2966, which will extend the repayment period for commercial tenants for back due rent until September 30th, 2021.

Per HB 4213A, passed in the first special session of 2020, back rent accrued during the commercial eviction moratorium (between April 1-September 30, 2020) is currently due March 31st, 2021. Unfortunately, aid from Business Oregon's \$100 million Commercial Rent Relief Program and the recently passed American Rescue Plan will not reach businesses in need before the grace period expires on March 31st.

We recognize that small businesses need more time - extending the protected repayment period for another six months will provide time for funds to reach businesses and for Oregon to more fully re-open as we make progress against COVID-19.

The Legislature needs to act quickly to pass a bill extending this grace period. HB 2966-1 is that vehicle, protecting commercial tenants from eviction due to back-rent accrued during the moratorium.

Please support the -1 amendment to HB 2966. Thank you.