



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

May 4, 2021

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senate Labor and Business Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports HB 2966-A. Collectively, we must continue to use every tool at our disposal to stabilize the economy and promote an equitable recovery for all Oregonians. The six-month repayment grace period for commercial tenants, established in HB 4213 last year, expired at the end of March 2021.

We urge you to act expeditiously to extend this grace period to September 30th, 2021 to give our local businesses time to access funding from Business Oregon's Commercial Rent Relief Program and the resources from the American Rescue Plan. Businesses across Oregon are still struggling to survive and adapt during this protracted public health emergency, and businesses owned by BIPOC Oregonians are particularly vulnerable to this severe disruption in the economy. HB 2966-A will provide a small, but necessary, measure of relief.

Small businesses are part of the fabric of our communities. They employ our families, friends, and neighbors. We strongly support an extension of the repayment period for commercial tenants as we do for residential tenants. This will benefit workers by keeping more people employed as businesses receive supports that help them endure the late stages of this crisis.

As more Oregonians become vaccinated, we must not forget that our residents and businesses continue to struggle through the impacts of this pandemic. Aid is on the way. We urge you to act swiftly to extend the repayment period and give our local businesses the opportunity to access funding that will bridge survival to recovery.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Carmen Rubio
Commissioner

Dan Ryan
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Mingus Mapps
Commissioner