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May 25, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Committee: On Finance and Revenue  
HEARING DATE: May 25, 2021  
HEARING FOR: BILL sb 137-2

Dear Committee Chairman and Committee Members:

I would ask you to please not tax the PPP loans we received. As many of you know, this is and has been a very trying, stressful time to be in business.

Our retail businesses have been deemed essential to be open. As a result, we have and are paying a \$25 bonus for every 8 hour shift our people show up for work.

Our starting wages are in excess of \$14 per hour; still, we fight every day for bodies to fill the slots that are needed. Pumping gas, oneself, is not allowed in OR., so we must try to keep our islands staffed.

As you know, most employees can make more staying home and drawing unemployment than filling most any job. That has made it extremely difficult to hire people when we need them.

At the time we applied for and received the PPP loans, we were told the taxes would be forgiven.

We have had numerous extra expenses during this time trying to keep from being vandalized. We hire nighttime security to sit at our main office trying to keep from being broken into. Even then, we have suffered from graffiti, homeless people wandering around and dumping junk and numerous broken windows at some facilities.

Oregon is having one of the richest years for as long as I can remember. Please keep in mind, Oregon's businesses have helped contribute to that successful buildup. Please allow us to not be taxed; we have all suffered a lot during this horrible time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lila C. Leathers".

Lila C. Leathers, President  
leathers@teleport.com