



from the desk of Lynn Snodgrass

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LYNN SNODGRASS
Chief Executive Officer

May 25, 2021

Senate and House members,

The Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce represents 500 business, 32,451 employees and is located in the fourth largest city in Oregon. What happens in Salem lives in the lives of not only our membership but our citizens as well.

Adapting to change under stressful circumstances can be very hard. Our businesses and patrons of those businesses have worked hard every single day for over a year to adapt. Their goal? Survival. And they are resilient.

But the resiliency of many successful businesses relies on partnerships that are loyal in nature and consistent in process. Elected officials should be partners. This legislation is far from partnership behavior.

The lives of our citizens, businesses and employees will be impacted by the legislation before you today. Businesses and families are still going through the financial and emotional effects of the pandemic. We are not fully open, fully free to shop and dine, or fully free to attend schools. Yet legislation such as SB 137-2 is center stage, changing the rules once again.

SB 137-2 is requiring forgiven PPP loan amounts be added back as taxable income just days after the state just received news of projected revenue more than ever before. This legislation does not qualify as "dire" or necessary.

Changing the rules, moving the goal posts, and being retroactive in policy sends a strong message to all businesses of all sizes whether inside or outside of Oregon. The message is loud and clear. Oregon is not a business-friendly environment.

The May Revenue Forecast should have been welcome news to the legislature. There is more than enough money to keep the state healthy. Thus, there is no justification for changing the rules, taxing retroactively and being counter to what the PPP was intended to accomplish.

The state is not in dire circumstances. SB 137-2 punishes businesses that played by the rules, followed the guidelines and are employing Oregonians.

A no vote on SB 137-2 would be appropriate and welcome.

Sincerely,

Lynn Snodgrass
CEO Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce