

To the Speaker and Members of the Oregon State Legislature.

As a restaurant owner, I am writing to express my STRONG opposition to SB 137-2.

The Paycheck Protection Program was established to support business, save jobs and keep the wheels of commerce turning.

The loans were given out, with very specific guidelines as to how they would be used. IF the business complied, the loan was forgiven. If the business did not comply, the loan was not forgiven.

Loans were applied for, with a clear understanding of the rules, allowing a business to make the decision of what long term obligation will be incurred for taking out said loan.

I committed to this program, fully aware of the contractual obligations required of me. I am the first to admit, we would've been out of business without this program, and our 25 employees would have been unemployed.

NOW, State of Oregon, wants to change the rules after the fact, by taxing a portion of the forgiven PPP amount? How is this something to even be considered? How is the State of Oregon able to change the rules after the fact? That is just wrong.

Small businesses have ridden the pandemic wave of challenges for a long 15 months. Most of us are barely holding on. Others have not survived, unable to continue to swim upstream, navigating continually evolving protocols, policies and mandates that change not only weekly, but sometimes, DAILY.

The Federal government saw the need to assist the small businesses of this country during this challenging time and came to aid with the PPP.

The State of Oregon did not. Rather, the State of Oregon seems to have a continual practice of piling more and more burden on the businesses of this state, such as:

- ~ Corporate Excise Tax
- ~ Continually rising minimum wage, set again to increase this July
- ~ Increased amount of accounting and reporting for State of Oregon programs and mandates

And now, State of Oregon wants to further break the backs of small businesses by taxing something that was meant to help them survive?????

I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 137-2, enough is enough. If the State of Oregon continues to put more and more burden on the backs of small businesses, jobs will disappear forever.