

February 5, 2021

Dear Chair Manning and members of the committee,

We are writing today to express our support for SB 531.

This past year has been an extremely difficult one for our business community.

Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-12, which shuttered many of our local businesses in the interest of protecting public health and slowing the spread of this virus. These closures resulted in many businesses suffering extensive losses – including our business. It meant laying off employees, losing inventory, losing customers, and for some, it meant losing their business entirely.

When businesses are forced to close due to public health emergencies like COVID-19, it is important that the state help those businesses recover. Our local businesses are the life-blood of our community and our economy, especially our small and mid-sized businesses who have shouldered the greatest weight of these closures. We feel it is important for these businesses to be made whole. This is why we support SB 531.

SB 531 would allow businesses to be reimbursed for closures made during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses sacrificed their livelihoods in order to protect the health of Oregonians. In turn, we should help these businesses - and the jobs they provide - survive.

Please stand with us and the many businesses in this state that have been affected and support SB 531.

Sincerely,

Jerry Walker
On behalf of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes
Volcanoes Stadium
Keizer, Oregon