

Honorable Governor Kate Brown,

As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on the public and economic health of our communities, we are writing to express hope and request your urgent help. We appreciate your administration's efforts in battling COVID-19, and we also respectfully request that you do more. On behalf of the 1,800 small businesses, 30,000 residents, and nearly 51,000 workers that we are privileged to represent, we want to highlight the urgent and complex issue of economic re-entry for those businesses primarily affected by the current health regulations. The City agrees that public health is of utmost importance, but economic health is vital for our community to thrive. While all businesses are currently struggling, the hospitality and entertainment industries have been heavily impacted, having to adjust to changes in public health requirements and changes in public behavior. This has been a tremendous burden, especially for small businesses without the resources to continuously adjust operations from week-to-week or month-to-month. These businesses need to have the ability to plan for the long-term for the benefit of their employees and ensure the recovery of their businesses.

The City asks you to work with Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Health Authority to look for ways to ease the burden on businesses, particularly "Indoor Drinking Establishments," "Indoor Recreation and Fitness Centers," and "Indoor Entertainment Establishments" by allowing these businesses to operate in a safe, but predictable manner.

To that end, the City asks for your support and advocacy for the following:

- 1.) Collaborating with public health officials to develop a protocol for the safe re-opening of all small business establishments during periods of "Extreme Risk," as defined by the Oregon Health Authority, similar to efforts in the State of Washington; and
- 2.) Introduce or support legislation in the 2021 session that establishes the rules promulgated by Oregon OSHA and other agencies as the standard of care in lawsuits alleging damages against business owners for COVID-related injuries and providing complete protection from liability for those businesses that adhere to the standard of care; and
- 3.) Introduce or support legislation providing additional financial relief, both short and long-term, for those small businesses whose operations have been most severely impacted (*e.g.*, Eating and Drinking Establishments, Indoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments, and Indoor Entertainment Establishments).

If given the chance, the City of Tualatin believes that our small businesses, which embody the Oregonian Way, will show the same vigor in mitigation as they did in March and November. These businesses can safely and adequately follow required guidelines to protect public health and should be given the opportunity to succeed. We urge you to support efforts to provide all businesses the opportunity to protect public health and create economic vitality.

We want to thank your administration for our hearing our concerns and requests.