



Esteemed Legislators and Governor Brown,

Business owners, workers and families across the state are looking to you to lead us through this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. We believe you also wish to see Oregon small business weather the storm. However, we are increasingly concerned that many will not make it. It is why we call on you to bring forth an immediate, temporary delay on Oregon's new Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) first quarter payments due April 30, 2020.

This new tax comes due at a time when our community and our economy is suffering unprecedented hardship. Oregon small and medium sized businesses have sacrificed for the benefit of our community's health by complying with stay-at-home and workplace safety orders. They are navigating through significant economic uncertainty and disruption of business operations and have been forced to make impossibly difficult decisions about their business and their employees. Still, they are holding on to hope that they will get through it to help us rebuild and recover once on the other side of this crisis. Now is not the time to force another difficult choice and more business closures or layoffs.

Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and many are the same businesses that are looking at 40-90% loss of revenues in March and April alone. The stark reality is that without temporary relief we will see many more businesses lay workers off at best, and at worst, more businesses close their doors permanently, leaving fewer jobs for workers to return to and further reductions in our tax base and payrolls.

Leadership at the state level is critical and will make the difference as to how quickly and how strongly we will recover. You have the ability to bring relief to these businesses and our community and we are pleading to you to show that you care. We will recover, but we need your help.

As our business community is currently struggling and deeply wounded, we ask for temporary relief from the CAT as we work towards healing our economy. We ask for you to provide this support to our businesses, so they can come back stronger, more resilient and poised to be great partners in providing long-term and stable funding for our state's resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical ask.

Sincerely,

Brittany Quick-Warner
President and CEO
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

Vonnie Mikkelsen
President and CEO
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce