



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARY STARRETT • LINDSAY BERSCHAUER • CASEY KULLA

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January 7, 2021

Re: Yamhill County Commissioners Support Oregon State Chamber of Commerce Business Re-opening Plan

Dear Governor Brown and Oregon Legislators,

Yamhill County businesses have been extremely responsible to our community and to the COVID-19 guidance coming from the state. The recent adoption of the Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Standard further means that Oregon workplaces are some of the safest and most sanitary places for customers and employees to be.

The remedies to small business currently being offered by the State are completely inadequate, and shutdowns are sending our employees into a failed state unemployment system that has a history of failing to deliver timely benefits. This is disastrous for our valued employees and completely avoidable if they were simply allowed to work and earn their paychecks. The "forgotten" people in this state have been our local businesses and their employees who have been crushed by their state government and left to fend for themselves.

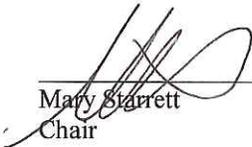
Our local businesses deserve the same consideration as the large corporations that have prospered due to elimination of small business competition and the government employees that have been kept whole.

To help give our local businesses equal consideration, we are calling for:

1. Immediate re-opening of all Oregon businesses.
2. Substantial remedies to our local businesses that have been forced to shut down through no fault of their own as the state has deprived these businesses and employees of their livelihoods.
3. A \$75 million Hospitality Relief fund dedicated to helping our state's restaurants and hospitality businesses recover.
4. A moratorium on new or increased taxes and fees at the state and local level. Whether direct or indirect, these increase the cost of business and further deprive our businesses of cash flow.
5. Stabilization of the commercial rental market through a short-term tax credit for property owners that are willing to waive debt for commercial tenants that are behind on rent.

We ask you to give Yamhill County local businesses and our employees the same consideration given to others during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local businesses and our employees have shouldered the largest costs imposed by state government and now is the time to help them recover.

Respectfully,


Mary Starrett
Chair


Lindsay Berschauer
Vice-Chair

Voted "No"

Casey Kulla
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
1/7/2021 by Board Order
21-07