

February 1, 2021

Honorable Governor Kate Brown
Attn: Citizens' Representative
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

As a citizen of the City of Harrisburg, I respectfully ask that you reconsider your stance in relation to eating and drinking establishments, that are not allowed to have indoor dining while our county (Linn County) is still considered Extreme Risk.

Our restaurants and drinking establishments have all adjusted to the High-Risk guidance, with limitations to capacity, removal of dining tables, installation of plexi-shields where possible, and other guidance as required by the State of Oregon. They all comply with stringent disinfection requirements. Many of them are barely surviving and are now in danger of closing for good. Allowing take out only, and outdoor seating, has limited them to only a few employees, while many of the remaining employees are furloughed, and are struggling to support themselves.

Having a business close will leave those few employees who are working, and the owners, without the means to support themselves. Those people in turn will rely on more of the dwindling state resources that are still available. Our small retail and service businesses are also struggling to comply with the requirements that you have mandated. Frankly, our already fragile local economy is in danger of dwindling even further.

I would like to point out that these small types of businesses (especially locally owned restaurants) generally don't have enough traffic to create higher infection rates. In fact, most of the infections are coming from exposure in social gatherings, especially in the younger age groups. As you and your staff consider the great many factors involved in this process, I would urge you to keep in mind

the needs of small towns, and small business owners, as well as the urgent need to keep our families wage earners employed.

We ask that you re-consider the more stringent requirements in relation to our businesses. Please allow them to operate at the high-risk standards, while the remaining extreme risk guidelines stay in place, if warranted.

I live in a town that is resilient, that has been operating since 1866. Please help us to maintain our economy and help to support our businesses in town. Thank you for your consideration and recognizing that we are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Citizens Names

Addresses/Emails (Optional)