



November 20, 2020

Dear Governor Kate Brown,

Portland's Central Eastside (Willamette River to SE 12th Ave and 1-84 to Powell Blvd) has been a major driver for job growth over the past decade with over 22,000 jobs pre-pandemic, many at small businesses. As the business association for the Central Eastside, the Central Eastside Industrial Council is very concerned about the financial burden that the recent restrictions will have on many of these businesses, especially the many restaurants for which the Central Eastside has become known.

We implore you to call a special session of the legislature to give businesses as many tools as possible to weather this difficult time. On October 22nd, we wrote our Representative Rob Nosse to ask for an extension of the commercial eviction moratorium tied to the foreclosure moratorium to protect both landlords and tenants. We ask that you consider this measure as well as permitting cocktails to go.

Businesses are making great sacrifices during this holiday for the safety of all. You acknowledged this with your recent allocation of \$55 million in emergency aid. We thank you for this quick response. We ask that you respond with the same urgency by providing businesses more relief through simple legislation as they navigate this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Merrill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Merrill
Executive Director
Central Eastside Industrial Council

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