



March 16, 2021

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively,

The City of Eugene would like to request action to support small businesses. The six-month repayment grace period for commercial tenants expires at the end of March. This is too soon. COVID-19 is still spreading; businesses cannot operate at full capacity. We ask that you extend the grace period another six months, through September 30, 2021.

As you know, the COVID-19 has caused immense hardship for many small businesses in Oregon. Businesses have closed doors and have suffered economically as part of the broad effort to slow the spread of COVID. The lack of revenue from normal business activities has made it difficult to cover fixed costs, including rent.

The state of Oregon has made strides to support these businesses. The commercial eviction moratorium offered businesses flexibility. The Commercial Rent Relief program is being implemented now and will offer direct financial relief to businesses—but after March 31. The state can maximize its positive impact by extending the repayment grace period, so that businesses are still tenants when the funds from the Rent Relief program become available.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Anne Fifield
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City of Eugene