

It is unfortunate, that the State of Oregon wants to tax businesses for the use of PPP money that was used exactly as it was intended. As a small business, we found it necessary to avail ourselves of the PPP lending program which we understood would be forgiven if it was used as indicated. Our use of funds received according to the CARES Act, as well as the American Rescue plan have been used 100% to pay employee expenses. Sometimes we didn't have enough work to do because of the travel restrictions, so we allowed employees to participate in educational opportunities, which we provided for their benefit. The state, by taxing PPP money, is implying they would rather have small business terminate employees, fail to pay rent or mortgage, and shutter their business, than to participate in programs that were designed to help small businesses provide the economic recovery that was a policy mandated economic burden caused by state and federal government policies in the first place. To retroactively change the game, is absurd. If the state wants to make policy for similar actions in the future, and declare that all future forgivable loan programs will be taxed at the state level, that would be appropriate. Although I would be opposed to that decision as well, at least I would be able to understand the financial implications prior to making a decision to participate. However, to penalize businesses, especially small businesses, who moved forward on good faith making decisions based on the forgiveness of the PPP lending would move against the intent and purpose for which the money was made available signals, once again, the state of Oregon has little concern for the small businesses that Oregon relies on for the bulk of it's tourism revenue.