

May 25, 2021

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance Revenue;

I am respectfully submitting this letter to voice my concern about the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 137, which would turn PPP loans in excess of \$100,000 into taxable income.

My husband and I own a small HVAC business in Tangent, with a team of 30 amazing men and women. As you are all aware, the last 14 months has been a whirlwind for businesses and individuals. I still remember the day we had to send our maintenance technicians home for a month, because so many of our customers are elderly and were scared to have people in their homes when the whole COVID thing took off. One of our young guys looked at me as he went out the door, I was trying not to let him see how upset I was, and he told me "we'll be ok". We do everything we can to keep our employees working so to send people home for an unknown amount of time, was **so hard**.

Early last year, when we heard there were funds available for emergency loans, we checked to see if there was anything we could qualify for. We really didn't know what was going to happen, but knew that we wanted to be able to provide for our customers (heat isn't optional), and our employees so they wouldn't have to go on unemployment long term. We were blessed to be able to get in on the first round of loans and I remember saying to my office manager something to the effect, "this seems too simple, do you think it's for real?" But we had no choice and in good faith, I signed the paper, applied, and we were granted the loan that would be 100% forgiven if we used it as we were supposed to. And that we did. Rather than laying people off, we allowed them to use their sick time, vacation time, and gave them at home training options all to keep them and their families taken care of even though our service side was almost nonexistent. The PPP funds allowed us the freedom as well, to make accommodations to provide thousands of MERV 13 mask filters to hospitals, care facilities, and community members. We kept people on the payroll, provided community support, and made safe accommodations to take care of people in their homes and businesses during a time full of unknowns. This was done all the while assuming that the financial support we were given would not be turned into a financial burden down the road.

We did everything we could to do the right thing. Now I ask you to consider the position businesses in Oregon find themselves in, and for you to do the right thing and make sure Senate Bill 137 goes no further than the initial discussion. We absolutely HATE having to raise prices for our customers more than you can imagine, especially now when things are just starting to feel ok again. It would be yet another blow to every local economy at a time when we're all just trying to do the very best we can.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Carla Kaminga

*Comfort
for Life*