

February 18, 2021

Dear Chair Manning and members of the committee,

We are writing today to express our support for SB 531.

This past year has been a difficult one for our business community. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in wide-spread changes to our daily lives, and ultimately, on our ability to do business.

With the onset of COVID-19, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-12, which shuttered many of our local businesses in the interest of protecting public health and slowing the spread of this virus. These closures resulted in many businesses suffering extensive losses. It meant laying off employees, losing inventory, losing customers, and for some, it meant losing their business entirely.

We had a car run through the front of our Building in February 2020 and then when we able to open up , we got blind sighted by Covid

When businesses are closed due to public health emergencies like COVID-19, it is important that the state help those businesses recover. Our local businesses are the life-blood of our community and our economy, especially our small and mid-sized businesses who have shouldered the greatest weight of these closures. We feel it is important for these businesses to be made whole. This is why we support SB 531.

SB 531 would allow businesses to be reimbursed for closures made during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses sacrificed their livelihoods in order to protect the health of Oregonians. In turn, we should help these businesses - and the jobs they provide - survive.

The Tax base that was lost due to these closures of businesses can't be replaced if we can't be in business.

We hope you will stand with businesses in this state and support SB 531.

Sincerely,

Daniel L Koonce

Turn Here Bar and Grill – Turner Oregon

