

We live in a very small coastal community that depends on the tourist trade for making their income to see themselves through the winter slow times. As a local we depend on these businesses to remain open for our own personal benefits. Three nights a week we have to travel 45 mins to Coos Bay to pickup a family member from kidney dialysis at 6:30 pm to take her home and since there is only to go orders being taken and most of these businesses have had to reduce hours, we are returning to town and they are closing or already closed with no were to buy her a dinner she can eat still warm by the time you her get home. There are nights that you pull into town and there are no restaurants open in town at all. This has to have a major impact on the hotels and motels in the area. How do you get people to stay in an area that they can't even get food to eat. The restaurants can't afford to open for breakfast and have had to cut back to limited hours for lunch and dinner. They've had to let go most of their staff because to put out a couple dozen to go orders takes about 1 cook and 1 waitress to meet the demand. Then there is the cost of the food and supplies that they loose every time they are told they can open and then are closed just as they get all the food back in stock. Then to top it off the employees that refuse to come back to work because they are drawing more on unemployment or they have to start and stop their claims multiple times. This is slowly killing our community and their spirit.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. It may not be the most eloquent but it is from the heart and truthful.

Deana Bussmann