

ROCHESTER AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 16 2020

Senator Roger Chamberlain
Chair, Senate Taxes Committee

Dear Chairman Chamberlain,

On behalf of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 crisis and for your special focus on the economic viability of businesses across the state during this unprecedented time. While challenging, southeast Minnesota's employers are working hard to do their part to best manage this public health crisis. However, many businesses' continued viability is in serious jeopardy. The unprecedented swiftness of state, federal and local governments' support will be helpful but there is an immediate and crushing need for businesses to preserve capital and manage cash flow.

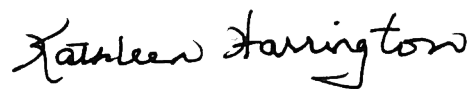
Thank you for your support and for advancing the consideration of deferring for 60-days beyond the May 15th deadline the payment of business property tax without penalty or interest. A uniform statewide policy on this important is most efficient and fair.

As you know, many businesses are experiencing severe cash flow issues and simply will not have the resources to pay their May 15th payment. This relief is essential now. The impact of this crisis to businesses and their employees, especially small business, is nothing short of grave. Business continuity is critical and a delay in paying property taxes without penalty will permit businesses to focus on employee retention, optimize state and federal programs, and be better positioned for the resumption of operations and recovery.

We appreciate that this request is not simple and has significant operational implications for state government. However, this delay, which we urge be uniform across the state, will allow for stronger business continuity and a higher likelihood of viability for the thousands of employers and therefore jobs in this region.

Again, thank you for your strong leadership during this crisis. I sincerely hope the Rochester Chamber's support is helpful as you seek the support of your colleagues for this critical policy adjustment.

Stay healthy,



Kathleen Harrington
President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce