

ROCHESTER AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Governor Walz,

On behalf of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your decisive leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. Your actions and the programs being put in place by your Administration are clearly designed to meet the twin demands of securing the public health and positioning our economy – our workforce and employers - for what we all hope will be a strong recovery. While challenging, southeast Minnesota's employers are working hard to do their part and support your efforts 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 need for businesses to preserve capital and best manage cash flow.

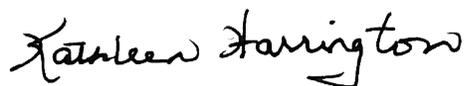
To help meet this need, we respectfully request the enactment by your Administration of an extension of the May 15th property tax payment for business property taxpayers without incurring penalty and interest.

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. Similar to what we are witnessing in the private mortgage market, **we are seeking forbearance of property tax payment without penalty at this unique time.**

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 in this region.

Again, thank you for your strong leadership during this crisis. I respectfully urge your most serious consideration of this request, which will help preserve and protect the economy of our region and the great state of Minnesota.

Stay healthy,



Kathleen Harrington
President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce