

## Press Release

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As the Board of the Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce, we continue to be concerned with the effects of COVID-19, including the health of our residents AND the effects of COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns on our community. As an organization that represents the interest of community and business leaders, we can no longer accept the double standard so unfairly applied in plain view of the public in which one business can stay open by adhering to the best practices while other businesses are mandated to shut down and not provided the opportunity to serve the public.

As the Board of the Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce, we believe that best practices can and must be uniformly applied to all manner of business and gatherings and are necessary for the well-being of our entire community as we continue to learn to live with COVID-19. EVERY business and organization should have equal opportunity to gain the trust of the consumer to utilize their services.

We want to make public that we represent a similar conclusion and support the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce by way of the following:

- Our businesses have been extremely responsible to our community and to the COVID-19 guidance coming from the state. The recent adoption of the Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Standard further means that Oregon workplaces are some of the safest and most sanitary places for customers and employees to be. Public health officials have been clear that COVID-19 is spreading in Oregon for reasons unrelated to our businesses being open.
- Our local businesses deserve the same consideration as the Large Corporations that have prospered due to elimination of small business competition. The shutdown of our local businesses has paved the way for corporate giants to profit in the absence of thriving local business communities. The “forgotten” people in this state have been our local businesses and their employees who have been crushed by their state government and left to fend for themselves.
- Shutdowns are sending our employees into a state unemployment system that has a history of failing to deliver timely benefits. This is disastrous for our valued employees and completely avoidable if they were simply allowed to work and earn their paychecks.

To help give our local businesses equal consideration, we stand by the OSCC and our associated members across Oregon in calling for:

**The immediate and permanent re-opening of all Oregon businesses.**