



May 1, 2020

A PLEA TO ELECTED OFFICIALS AND LAWMAKERS:

As you continue developing a plan to reopen Oregon safely, the Sherwood Chamber asks that you PLEASE have trust in our businesses that they will keep employees and customers safe.

They know what's at stake. They know "business as usual" is a long ways off, if ever. They know that if they don't get reopening right that they risk being shut down again. They know that their customers will demand safe practices or they'll take their business elsewhere. They know that if they don't meet the proper health and safety guidelines that the court of public opinion will doom them, followed by OSHA.

Give the business community an opportunity to shine and they'll make Oregon proud. OSHA officials in a webinar hosted by Oregon Business & Industry confirmed this recently when they shared that of the 1500 "spot checks" they've conducted to date, the "overwhelming majority determined employer was taking reasonably effective steps to maximize social distancing, limit interpersonal contact, and maximize cleaning/sanitation."

Businesses understand that the reopening has to be slow and steady. Those that are waiting their turn are planning, taking notes of what others are doing, consulting with one another, and implementing the guidelines outlined by health officials.

We know it's hard to detail every who, what, where, when and how of each reopening phase. There are too many unique businesses and circumstances to cover it all. As a result, we'll appreciate that you will trust our businesses to use their best judgement and be reasonable. If we discover that their judgments were off then we'll appreciate the state's understanding and that you'll help us educate and take corrective action rather than penalize and punish.

Thank you for all the work you're doing to stay informed on the incredibly fast-moving target we call COVID-19 and for all the time spent drafting and evaluating policies to keep people safe while trying to get the economy functioning again. Please thank your families for their support and sacrifices that allow you to do the work.

Best Regards,

Corey Kearsley
Executive Director
Sherwood Area Chamber of Commerce