

## Act Now!

### Tell Governor Brown Not to Penalize Businesses in Crisis!

Our business community has received mixed messages from Governor Brown related to corporate activity tax (CAT) underpayment penalties. Last Wednesday, in a meeting with about 1,000 business owners and workers organized by the Oregon Business Plan, Governor Brown stated the state would not assess penalties “of any type” for first quarter underpayment of the new CAT quarterly payment, which is **still due today, April 30**. In her words, “We have been very, very clear. The Department of Revenue is not going to assess payments for this first quarterly pay period. We are asking people to do the best they can. And we will not be issuing any type of penalty for this reporting period.”

However, two days later an apparent change occurred and in a letter to Oregon Business & Industry, Governor Brown listed the **“good faith” efforts businesses would have to demonstrate to avoid a penalty**. At the end of the day, it will be left to the discretion of the bureaucrats in Salem to decide who will pay a penalty and who will not. Tell Governor Brown we need her to honor her original commitment and not assess any penalties for businesses filing their taxes late.

**TAKE ACTION**

### **ACTION ALERT: Contact Our Congressional Leadership Today!** **COVID-19 BUSINESS AND EMPLOYEE CONTINUITY AND RECOVERY FUND (The Recovery Fund)**

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce is part of the grassroots Save Small Business Coalition (SSBC), which currently has more than 90 members nationwide—and growing. The SSBC is working to find a solution to get money into the hands of all businesses as soon as possible.

Since its origin in March, the SSBC has been working to find a solution that will assist small businesses quickly and effectively with business continuity. It has worked with partner associations in the insurance and commercial development industries and have now aligned efforts with the Joint Trades Coalition, led by the International Council of Shopping Centers association. The relief vehicle proposes the establishment of the **COVID-19 Business and Employee Continuity and Recovery Fund**, modeled after the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, that would create the framework to assist all impacted businesses regardless of size, industry or location.

The COVID-19 Business and Employee Continuity and Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund) is a proposed federal direct assistance grant program to provide liquidity to businesses that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the Recovery Fund is

to enable employers (and their employees) of all sizes and across all industries to financially survive losses caused by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as provide liquidity to enable employers to re-enter the market as rapidly as possible when it is safe to do so.

We need you to **ACT NOW** and contact our Congressional Representatives to let them know that we need this solution for business continuity as soon as possible. **Urge Congress to Support the COVID-19 Recovery Fund:** <https://actnow.io/usrecoveryfund>

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**The chamber's next membership luncheon previously scheduled for May 18 has been tentatively rescheduled for Monday, June 8...with, of course, back-up options at the ready!**

The luncheon program, a "Timber & Wood Products Industry Update," will be presented by Roseburg Forest Products president & CEO Grady Mulbery. More information to follow in a future "Chamber News" email.

## **NEW Information and Resources for Businesses Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic:** <https://roseburgchamber.com/news/current-news/>

Please continue to check back, as the chamber updates its resource information almost daily. And, please share this link with friends and colleagues. The more our local businesses armed with information and access to resources, the stronger our recovery.

**Let us know how we can help!**

**Stay Safe...Stay Strong...We Are In This Together!**

**And, please remember to BUY LOCAL and SHOP SMALL!**

*Debbie*

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**ROSEBURG**  
**AREA** Chamber of  
Commerce  
& Visitors Center

