



April 15, 2020

Eric King, City Manager, City of Bend
710 Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

CC: Mayor Sally Russell

Dear Eric,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce and its 1,700 members urge the City of Bend to prepare city-specific protocols and expectations for businesses transitioning from the Governor's Executive Order 20-12 social distancing restrictions resulting from COVID-19.

Specifically, Chamber members are asking for predictability from the city's plans to enforce workplace operations, social gathering restrictions and limitations to our tourism industry. Sharing your plan and a path forward is vital to businesses who are desperately trying to understand how to innovate and prepare for the transition to opening for business.

We understand that the city is working with surrounding communities to understand guidelines coming from the State of Oregon to monitor and stave off the spread of the virus. But it is time for a plan that can bring some level of predictability to businesses and their employees who are struggling. Bend businesses are ready to understand what is expected of us as we monitor the number of new cases of COVID-19 and react accordingly. We know that adhering to protocols is how we will eventually eradicate the virus and that doing so will also enable us to begin the transition of re-opening our businesses. The Bend Chamber, its members and the greater business community are ready to innovate and implement a phased approach that will be expected of us.

The business community is eager to offer support in the formulation of these protocols for the city and regionally in order to speed up this process and communicate these directions to businesses.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank city employees, healthcare and emergency responders who put themselves at risk for our benefit. As we proceed, we want to honor them and recognize their efforts. We are ready to work together to form a path forward for the successful reopening of our economy and an eventual return to normal ways of working and living.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks

CEO