

* FOR URGENT CONSIDERATION *

March 19, 2020

To: Governor Brad Little

Re: The COVID-19 Outbreak in Idaho – Service and Hospitality Industry request for Immediate Action

Dear Governor Little,

We appreciate the challenges and decisions you are faced with making in light of the COVID-19 crisis. We recognize the great lengths you have gone to keep our communities safe, declaring a state of emergency and closely monitoring the situation.

We are a group of independent hospitality business owners who represent an important part of Idaho's unique food and beverage culture. As an industry, we have always taken great care to provide a safe and clean environment for our staff and guests. However, the very act of serving food and beverage in a social setting requires that we violate social distancing protocols, and for most of us, we agree with you that social distancing is the wise strategy. While we greatly appreciate your desire to protect our freedom to decide what to do, your policy of social distancing doesn't work unless we all do it. We think the policy should prioritize essential needs, food policy in this regard should allow us to offer take out, but the social nature of our hospitality businesses work against social distancing policy.

Our shared hope is to weather this storm as quickly as we can, with the least amount of human suffering, and the greatest chance to restart our economy so all of us can get back to what we all do helping make Idaho the great place it is.

As we enter this storm together, we ask to work with you to solve 2 major concerns related to this policy. Few workers in Idaho are as large a population and as vulnerable as those in the hospitality industry. Our people, our hard working staff of culinary and hospitality professionals, are what create real value in our businesses and they deserve our loyalty and support, especially in the most unprecedented crisis many of us have experienced in our lives. Along with a plan to help support our workforce, we need a plan for how we restart our businesses when this storm is over. As we are making this great sacrifice, many of us burned reserves attempting to weather the effects of this over the past few weeks, and shutting down our businesses is not free. All of us are working to defer expenses as much as we can, and yet our businesses were not structured financially to sit idle. We are working to get a picture of the damage, and we hope you agree, success in this restart effort should demand no small business left behind, along with our people our small businesses in the hospitality sector are an essential part of what makes our State of Idaho great, and we will need every last one to

successfully restart our economy. We are your partners, and we hope to work with you on these ideas to achieve our shared goals:

- Executive Action to require all non essential social gathering places to cease operations immediately. Essential services should be prioritized, and for our industry we would hope that includes take-out or drive through service only, people need food.
 - Small rural economies are often forgotten in times like these, they are the most vulnerable, and extra consideration should be made for their unique needs, but social distancing can't work unless we all work together.
- Implement increased emergency state unemployment benefits for the duration of the closures of these establishments. Suspend the associated waiting week and requirement to look for work. Any worker previously ill with COVID-19, quarantined due exposure or being immune compromised will also be covered for income lost.
- Provide employers with a 90-day extension to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest.
- Deferral of State Sales tax for 90 days, with arrangement to repay over 3 years - specifically to help cover immediate and startup payroll expenses.

As a group, we are also concerned about rental abatement, eviction moratoriums (both residential and commercial), deferring business license fees as we attempt to reopen, deferring business taxes until 2021 and more. These are incredibly important issues that could provide us a greater opportunity to bounce back from these times. We want you to be aware of these topics and how critical they are to us but feel that the four bulleted items are of the utmost priority for immediate action.

We are very fortunate to work and provide services in this great state. Our connections to the people here in Idaho are genuine and the support we have been receiving from our community has been uplifting but ultimately not enough to protect us. Each business can independently pivot and make decisions but it is now much larger than the individual. We need to have a consistent message. Governor, we are counting on you to help the hospitality workers and owners here in Idaho. We thank you for your leadership today and ask to let us work with you to help our industry during this time.

In solidarity,

1. Kris Komori & Remi McManus – KIN Restaurant
2. Dave Krick & Jami Adams - Bittercreek/Red Feather/Diablo & Sons Restaurants
3. Chad Johnson - Reef, BrickYard Steakhouse and Front Door Taphouse
4. Tony and Tara Eiguren -- The Basque Market
5. Rob and Keely Landerman - Woodland Empire Ale Craft brewery
6. Jeremy Aevermann & Elizabeth Oldenkamp - Solid Grill & bar/ Liquid Laughs

7. Dick Dufenhorst, Darcy Piens, Todd Kaebisch & Rocci Johnson - Humpin' Hannah's
8. David & Sarah Kelly - Petite 4
9. Dave Boyle- Chandlers Steakhouse
10. Justin and Sheri Archambo - The Funky Taco
11. Kylie North and Laura Keeler - Water Bear Bar
12. Cameron & Amanda Lumsden - Lumsden Restaurants, LLC. (Fork & ALAVITA)
13. Mike and Rosie Weems - Calle 75 Street Tacos
14. David Munson and Ted Challenger- Dirty Little Roddy's, Amsterdam Lounge and StrangeLove Nightclub
15. Jeff & Steph May - Bar Gernika/Manfreds' Kitchen
16. Jason Farber and Bart Kline Manfred's Kitchen
17. Phu Tran - Riceworks
18. John & Kristy Toth-TWT Company, LLC d.b.a. Owyhee Tavern
19. Barry Werner-Prime Lots, LLC d.b.a. Tavern at Bown Crossing
20. Richard and Melinda Langston, RM Restaurants, LLC dba Richard's
21. Grant Shealy and Zoe Davis- Neckar Coffee
22. Robert & Lisa Lumsden - Flatbread Neapolitan Pizzeria / Eight Thirty Common
23. Blake Lingle & Brad Walker, Boise Fry Company / Press & Pony / RamaPong
24. Anne-Marie & Michael Trebbi, Wild Root Café
25. Chris Niederer, Darren and Tiffany Beck, Big Jud's Boise/Big Jud's Meridian
26. Molly Leadbetter, Ann Leadbetter, Gig Leadbetter, Kate Pettis - Meriwether Cider
27. Kate & Scott Seward- Form & Function Coffee, District Coffee House
28. Wiley Earl, Nate Ingersoll, Dave Stearns - Fins Concepts: Lucky Fins Boise & Meridian, Smokin Fins Idaho Falls, Naked Fins Boise
29. Enrique Contreras & Ana Paz - Conpaz Inc dba Enrique's Mexican Restaurant
30. Alyssa Partida - Grantura LLC dba Kuna Event Center
31. Litsa Manolis & Jessi Strong- Sofia's Greek Bistro
32. Dina Manolis- Tom's Gyro & Burgers
33. Susie & Jerry Larson - Mad Swede Brewing Company
34. John & Julie Cuevas - MADRE Boutique Taqueria
35. Chris Oates -Bier:Thirty Bottle & Bistro
36. George Skandalos - Sangria Grille, Maialina, Garden Lounge, Moscow
37. Nara & Brandon Woodland, Bloom Cafe, Moscow ID
38. Sara Pritchett, John Sullivan & Deborah Sullivan- - One World Cafe
39. Douglas Renggli - broadline food service rep, Moscow ID & Lewiston ID
40. Andy Severson - Stax Moscow, Stax Lewiston
41. Kevin and Lori Clary - The Breakfast Club Moscow
42. Ryan Town and Christina Mangiapani - mock orange, Moscow ID
43. Graham Lilly - Hunga Dunga, Moscow
44. Louise Todd - Mikey's Gyros, Moscow
45. Brett and Nikki Woodland- Nectar Restaurant and Bar, Monarch Motel, Moscow
46. Dave and Amy Thompson - Paradise Grill and Cafe, Moscow
47. Mathieu Choux - Gaston's Bakery, Boise, ID

48. Gerardo & Patty Alvarez - Patty'[s Mexican Kitchen & Catering
49. Jacob Black - Lost Grove Brewing, Boise, ID
50. T.J. And Missy Sayles- Prost!,North End Pizza, Matlacks, Boise
51. Carly Lilly - Sangria Grille & Maialina & The Garden Lounge, Moscow, ID
52. Dan Watts - Saint Lawrence Gridiron, Boise
53. Matt & Jennifer Hurlbutt - Salmon River Brewery, McCall
54. Billy Pothikamjorn - Mai Thai Restaurant and Bar, Boise, ID
55. Kelsey Holder - Holder Investments
56. Daniel Rhodes - Bodovino LLC, Boise, ID
57. Stephen Lee - Bargreen Ellingson, Boise ID
58. Ellen and Stephen Furbacher, Grand Teton Brewing Company.
59. Kasey Allen & Dan Sell, The STIL, Boise
60. Joseph and Diana Shafer, Slow by Slow Coffee Bar, Boise, ID
61. Kacey Montgomery and Shannon Lincoln, Juniper, Red Bench Pizza
62. Adam Hegsted, Eat Good Group, Honey Eatery and Social Club, Coeur d' Alene
Republic Kitchen and Taphouse, Post Falls, ID, Farmhouse Kitchen and Silo Bar,
Ponderay, ID
63. Aaron Fish, Eat Good Group, Honey Eatery and Social Club, Coeur d' Alene, ID,
Republic Kitchen and Taphouse, Post Falls, ID, Farmhouse Kitchen and Silo Bar,
Ponderay, ID
64. Craig Denney, Eat Good Group, Honey Eatery and Social Club, Coeur d' Alene, ID,
Republic Kitchen and Taphouse, Post Falls, ID, Farmhouse Kitchen and Silo Bar,
Ponderay, ID
65. Jessica Vouk and Jeremy Holzapfel - Beet and Basil at the Creek, Sandpoint, Idaho
66. Paul D'Orazi, Eat Good Group, Honey Eatery and Social Club, Coeur d' Alene, ID,
Republic Kitchen and Tap House, Post Falls, ID, Farmhouse Kitchen and Silo Bar ,
Ponderay, ID
67. Cory Treman, Eat Good Group, Honey Eatery and Social Club, CD'A ID, Republic
Kitchen and Taphouse, Post Falls ID, Farmhouse kitchen and Silo Bar, Ponderay ID
68. Toni & Zach Salerno -Baird, PALOUSE JUICE CAFE Moscow, ID
69. Mike O'Brien - Seasons Bar and Grille, Moscow, ID
70. David and Lizzy Rex, The Wylder and Certified Kitchen + Bakery, Boise ID
71. Bev and Lisa Bafus, Cafe Artista, Moscow, ID
72. Caleb Niederer, Big Jud's, Archer, ID
73. Ashley Syms, A Cafe, Boise, ID
74. Daniel Rockrohr and Lisa Freeman, Cactus Bar, Boise, ID
75. Kristopher Ott and Brady Gaschler , Chop Shop LLC. Caldwell, Id.
76. Cody Cuccia and Evan Izett, Heritage Hop Haus, Meridian, ID
77. Collin Rudeen, Boise Brewing, Boise, ID
78. Joel Cohen, Tapped, Moscow, ID
79. Chris, Rebecca, Simone Kastner, CK's Real Food, Hailey, ID
80. Paul Faucher, Grit, Caldwell, ID
81. Peter and Elaine Tobin Sandpopint

82. Krystle McLaughlin, Guru Donuts
83. Nicholas Jones, Good Burger
84. Kennden Culp & Andrea Marcoccio- Matchwood Brewing Company, Sandpoint, ID
85. Scott and Anne Mason, Mason Family Restaurants, ENOTECA, Ketchum Grill, Town Square Tavern- Ketchum ID
86. Sarah Lipton & Taylor Rossi - Hank & Sylvie's Ketchum and Hank & Sylvie's Hailey
87. Melissa Sanborn & Mike Pearson - Colter's Creek Winery - Moscow & Juliaetta
88. Robert Truax - The Curb Bar and Grill, Meridian, ID
89. Naomi Boutz, Vine & Olive Eatery and Wine Bar
90. David and Ruth Carey - Rupert's at the Hotel McCall, Jug Mountain Ranch Clubhouse, McCall, ID
91. Ryan and Sununta Haworth - Teton Thai, Driggs, Idaho - Teton County
92. Billy & Tanya Olson - Power House, Hailey, ID
93. Vita and Burke Smith - Cookbook Restaurant, Ketchum ID
94. Chad and Amy Cooper, and Nicole Grasska - Bella Aquila Restaurant, Eagle ID

Dear Governor Little,

Thank you for taking time to hear our concerns. My wife and I are owner operators of a small, but successful restaurant in Boise. As with every other restaurant owner in the country, we are looking at taking a huge, and possibly complete loss of everything we have. Business levels have dropped 75% this week. It is costing us money to stay open. We will have to lay off our entire staff, with little or no warning. We are feeling the social pressure to close, because there is no way to run our operation, and ensure social distancing, and keep the number of people gathering under ten. But, this is our sole income. We cannot work from home. We are not a delivery/pick up restaurant. We would have to create a completely new business on the fly, with no assurance of the availability of goods or services, or a customer base large enough to support us. We would still have to lay off 90% of our staff, and there might not be enough soap, paper towels, or toilet paper to stay open, according to health code standards.

Restaurants and bars have grave cultural importance to this city and state. It is where we meet, engage, laugh, celebrate, and console with one another. What everyone will long for after this pandemic is normalcy. Normalcy for most, is going out and engaging with one another and sharing a meal or drink. If the people working in these restaurants, and the owners of these community hubs, are not compensated, there might not be a normalcy to return to.

By forcing a mandated closure, our business can be shuttered, and not continue to be bled dry. Our employees would not be subjected to unnecessary possible exposure. And, we can focus our finances to reopening, when this terrible time passes. Hopefully we can benefit from a payroll tax deduction, and other possible grants, to retain our staff and reopen, and bring back the culture to this community.

Thank you, and be well

David Kelly
Owner/Operator
Petite 4

Sarah Kelly
Owner/Operator
Petite4

Kaixo from the Basque Market

We are a little “ma and pa” business located in downtown Boise. We are sort of an identity crisis... we are a restaurant, caterer and retail market. We have found that we need to offer all of these services to survive. Business has never been easy, but we love sharing our culture so it is worth it.

My family made it to Idaho from the Basque Country, deciding that this is where they would raise families. My parents grew up here in the culture, as did I and now our daughter. We believe in not only living our culture, but also sharing it with others. Through food we have created not only a small business, but a family of staff and customers. We started with the two of us (our daughter has been here since age 5, so actually three of us) and we currently have a staff of 10. We have seen good and bad over the 13 years, but this is a unique case.

We need help. Without help, The Basque Market will disappear and with that part of our culture. What will happen to our employees and their families? Most live paycheck to paycheck and cannot afford to go without pay and we don't have the finances to help them all. Our employees feel they must work, no matter the risks, so they can keep a roof over their heads and food on their tables for their families.

We understand you are in a difficult position. Please consider how we can all help each other make it through this difficult time.

Eskerrik Asko,
(Thank You)
Tony and Tara Eiguren
The Basque Market
208.869.5226

Dear Governor Little,

Mai Thai Restaurant has been a Boise staple for over 15 years and in that time we have done whatever we can to help take care of our less fortunate in the community by donating our buffet leftovers to the shelter, donating food and supplies to both the women's shelter and to the food bank run by a church in Parma. Like all restaurants across the country we are taking huge losses to the point that we're having to lay off most of our staff while our salaried employees are taking 50% pay cuts just so we can survive this. Though our survival is still very uncertain as restaurants operate on very small margins.

Not only are restaurants a place for people to gather and share a meal and a drink but also very important job creators for the community. We've long been a haven for refugee workers from

Southeast Asia that were displaced by the vietnam war and it is heartbreaking to have to tell them that we may not be able to offer them work any longer as we cut back to only a few employees to run a take out program. We are in dire need of help like everyone else on this list if we're to bounce back and be able to support our community once again.

We understand the difficult position you are in to make these tough decisions but please consider what you could do for the community as a whole by helping the restaurant industry through these uncertain times.

Billy Pothikamjorn- Owner
Josh Maciolek- Executive Chef
Mai Thai Restaurant
208-344-8424