

SHELLY BOSHART DAVIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 17, 2023

Via Electronic Mail

Governor Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: OR-OSHA COVID-19 Fines

Dear Governor Kotek,

On April 3, 2023, OR-OSHA suspended all COVID-19-related rules. As you know, under a previous administration, these rules led to substantial fines against many Oregon employers. In light of this rule's suspension, I ask that you direct OR-OSHA – with the exception of willful and egregious violations - to cease collection of outstanding fines related to this rule and refund employers that the agency may have unfairly targeted.

Recent media coverage estimates the total outstanding fines at approximately \$800,000. Nearly \$100,000 in fines have already been collected. As I'm sure you can understand, these fines loom large over many businesses, especially as they attempt to stay afloat amid continued inflation and labor shortages. Returning this money and ceasing collection of outstanding fines would be a gesture of goodwill to the employer community and advance our shared goal of healing our state. It would also allow OR-OSHA regulators to focus on keeping workplaces safe prospectively rather than spending time and energy on past incidents.

It's time to move on from the pandemic. Please help our state continue to recover by waiving and refunding these fines.

Sincerely,

Shelly Boshart Davis
Oregon State Representative
District 15