

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

As we have all experienced during the Covid-19 Pandemic, small businesses have been closed or reduced to curbside service. Big Box stores have been open with social distancing requirements in place. Our Small businesses are the core of our economy in New Mexico and employ over 50% of New Mexicans. Small businesses will follow required health guidelines closely.

We can OPEN our small businesses at the same level as the big box stores and they can begin to recover lost revenue and have the ability to hire back employees. New Mexico is going to experience one of the largest budget deficits in the history of the state and small businesses can have a positive impact on recovering lost Gross Receipts taxes.

We are kindly requesting that the Governor allow for the opening of small businesses in a safe manner. We are also requesting the clear guidelines and a plan to reopen to our small businesses

- Allow for restaurants and retailers to open with the same capacity guidelines as big box stores
- Increase small business occupancy at a faster rate than big box stores as they can limit exposure much better than stores will long lines.
- Authorize a special permit for restaurants and breweries to expand their outdoor fenced patios to serve food, beer and wine on a temporary basis through 11/1/2020 (with landlord approval)
- Allow for Hair stylists and barbers to open with 6 foot separation, and all service providers wearing masks and gloves

Our future in New Mexico will be based on how many small businesses can be successful during and after this Pandemic