(Date)

Governor Inslee,

There is an immediate and urgent need for additional financial assistance to small businesses in Washington State. (Suggested brief personal statement – who your organization represents or even a simple sentence, such as “As a concerned Washingtonian and resident of \_\_\_\_\_” or “As a small business owner myself…”) I am writing to support the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Federation of Independent Business’s request to **increase funding for small business grants to $50 million.**

The small businesses in my community are in desperate need of additional assistance, and fast. Data from a recent National Main Street Center [survey](https://www.mainstreet.org/blogs/national-main-street-center/2020/04/09/new-report-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-small-busines?CommunityKey=c40a84d1-46b2-465c-985c-c08ed69081ab&tab=) of small businesses highlights the bleak economic forecast, should policymakers hesitate to prioritize small businesses:

* Of the nation’s approximately 30 million small businesses, nearly 7.5 million may close permanently over the coming months.
* Approximately 35.7 million Americans employed by small businesses appear to be at risk of unemployment.
* In Washington State, 91% of respondents reported loss of revenue and over 75% stated that employees are at risk of unemployment and/or layoff

While loans from the federal CARES Act are being deployed, we know that funding from PPP and EIDL have offered little long-term relief. Data also shows that [less than half](https://www.mainstreet.org/blogs/national-main-street-center/2020/05/26/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-small-businesses-follow) of federal relief applicants in Main Street districts around the nation have received funding, with the smallest businesses, especially those in small towns, having the least success.

Small, independent businesses contribute in innumerable ways to Washington’s economy and Washingtonians’ sense of place and quality of life – making up 99 percent of all businesses and employing half the state’s private-sector workforce. Acting now to address the urgent needs these businesses are facing will help ensure that our communities are strong, resilient, and connected throughout the uncertainty of these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration,

(Signature and signature line)