



ABOUT THE IRAO

The **Independent Restaurant Alliance of Oregon (IRAO)** was formed in March 2020 to save independently owned restaurants and bars in Oregon affected by COVID-19. We led the effort to legalize cocktails to go and cap third party delivery fees and supported one another in modifying operations to keep our guest and staff safe. We are an organization fully operated and directed by volunteers. Our mission is simple— we are fully committed to working together to find the solutions to the challenges our industry faces, together. These small businesses cannot fail.

WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

Independent restaurants and bars in Oregon urgently need your attention to address the significant economic crisis resulting from the January 2024 storms. Over 60% of independent food service establishments have indicated that storm closures have placed them at risk of permanent closure. Considering the substantial role that the restaurant and bar industry plays in Oregon's economy, these losses have far-reaching implications for the economic well-being of our state. We implore you to utilize emergency orders to the fullest extent and prioritize the following survival strategies:

- **Suspend payroll tax and all city and state business taxes for 90 days.**
- **Place a moratorium on commercial evictions after January 18, 2024 for a period of three months.**
- **Create a relief fund specifically designed to assist independent restaurants, food carts and bars with fewer than 100 employees**
- **Allocate resources to ensure proper road maintenance during winter storms,**
- **Work closely with local utility companies to manage the urban canopy, reducing the number of power outages caused by downed trees during storms. Demand improved response times to outages by crucial utilities such as power and water to minimize disruptions to our operations.**

Independent restaurants and bars in Oregon are ready and eager to engage in further discussions and collaboration to address these critical issues. Without immediate assistance, neighborhood restaurants and bars will not survive. City and state officials must act swiftly to ensure the resilience of our communities.

Learn more and take action at oregonrestaurants.org