



Governor Parson,

Thank you for leading Missouri's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we are rising to this unprecedented challenge to ensure the safety and well-being of all Missourians. As we move forward, another critical part of our response is ensuring a strong economic recovery for workers and businesses.

To support a strong recovery, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is asking you to call a special session to protect businesses from opportunistic claims alleging exposure to COVID-19 on their premises. This temporary, limited immunity from liability should be available if businesses follow government guidance on public health measures.

To be clear, bad actors should not be protected. Businesses that exhibit gross negligence and do not follow government guidance to protect employees and customers should not benefit from the proposed safe harbors from liability.

This crisis has caused half of our state's employers to anticipate putting in place at least temporary layoffs. More than two-thirds of employers expect to see declines in their revenue this year, according to a Missouri Chamber member survey. These numbers illustrate the profound impact this crisis is having on our economy.

Businesses want to drive this recovery – bring Missourians back on their payrolls, provide goods and services to customers, and create economic activity and tax revenue.

Providing this legal safe harbor will enable more Missouri businesses to confidently reopen, bring Missourians back to work and further strengthen our state's recovery.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan
President and CEO
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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President, Koller Enterprises Inc.
Chairman, Missouri Chamber Board of Directors

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