

JOBS LOST IN MINNESOTA HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- **15,202** direct hotel-related jobs lost
- **53,482** total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

MINNESOTA HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Jeanne Sorensen – Orr, MN

“As a resort owner/hotelier in Minnesota I have experienced firsthand losses in all facets of our restaurant, bar and lodging and am at a loss as to how we are going to be able to pay our bills. Please help.”

Richard Grabow – Winona, MN

“I have experienced firsthand a stream of cancellations that started about 6 days ago and has nearly wiped out our bookings for the rest of March and all of April. Very quickly I will not be able to meet my financial obligations. With a large mortgage, business loans, utility and Insurance payments all due, and nearly no cash flow, I can't imagine what will become of us, our wonderful Alexander Mansion bed and breakfast business, and the benefits we bring to our community.”

Sherrie Porth – Bigfork, MN

“As self-employed small business owners, we have no recourse for lost income as we are not eligible for unemployment benefits.”

Brenda Schaeffer – Wabasha, MN

“As a B&B owner in Minnesota I have experienced firsthand a state of panic and people are cancelling because they are scared. With the panic that is being driven by our government, it can/will shut down small businesses. Operating a 5 room Bed & Breakfast and small brewery on premises in a small town is my only way to pay my mortgage. I don't get a paycheck from this "job" either. Please help!”

Charles Dougherty – Stillwater, MN

“As a hotelier in Minnesota I have experienced firsthand large number of cancellations. In the last two days we have processed over 100 cancellations over the next two months. This is the time of year we are running on fumes and waiting these spring bookings to keep us going. Being in Stillwater we make our living on 5 months out of the year. Having a restaurant that the Governor is now going to close, we cannot make it on take out orders.”

HEADLINES ACROSS MINNESOTA ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

71 news stories in Minnesota regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets including:

Star-Tribune – [Minnesota's Hospitality Industry Is In Danger Of Collapse](#)

Minnesota's hospitality industry faces a crisis of a kind it has never seen before. The economic impact of COVID-19 and temporary closures is an existential threat to many small and medium-sized hospitality businesses. These operators and their workers are vital contributors to Minnesota's economy and identity. They host some of the most important moments in our lives. Our state needs to help them survive. Some 300,000 Minnesotans are employed in the industry, generating \$6 billion in wages. The industry also collects and remits 18% of the state's sales tax, without which the average Minnesota family would pay an additional \$625 per year to fund Minnesota's priorities.

Winona Daily News – [Government Issues Historic Restrictions Amid Virus Outbreak](#)

The rapid work stoppage had Americans fretting about their jobs and their savings, threatened to overwhelm unemployment benefit programs, and heightened fears the country could plunge into a recession.