

From: wendy goude  
Sent: 4/24/2016 7:06:28 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: PLEASE HELP MY SMALL BUSINESSES IN SC. TAX SYSTEM IS KILLING ME.

Dear Governor,

I am writing to you for help to save my small business. I have a very successful fine dining restaurant on the waterfront in Georgetown. I started this restaurant after working in the industry for 26 years. As well as the restaurant is doing, I will be forced to close my doors on May 25 as I simply can not keep up with taxes and penalties associated. I am beyond scared as well as heart broken.

My Daddy and I worked tirelessly for 8 long months creating this business from the ground up. We renovated a "run down" historic building (without any financial assistance) and turned it into the number 1 restaurant in the county (according to Trip Advisor and Yelp). We are so proud of this restaurant as is our community. It will be an economic loss to Front Street if I am forced to close my doors. Also, I have 24 employees who are very dedicated to and believe in this restaurant...and they believe in me. I will be letting them down as well.

I have been unable to receive any help. No one cares. It is a shame to work this hard and be so successful only to lose the "American dream" to live in the "American nightmare" due to our tax system. I have driven to Columbia, Charleston and Myrtle Beach in hopes of speaking with a tax representative who would help me. Everyone is short in verbiage, rude, talk like robots reading from a script and, simply speaking, they are all uncaring.

I would like to know if there are any programs available, grants or tax reprieves that I could apply for. I do not wish to appeal the taxes as I know they are owed, however, if there is anything you can do to help me file an extension, apply for a program or anything to save my Business, Beer and Wine and Liquor licenses from being taken away, I would be extremely grateful. At this juncture, my life depends on it as I see no way out. I am so depressed and stressed out over this...I NEVER dreamed this would be so difficult. All I want to do is work in a field that I love and give back to my community. I am just devastated.

(Please also see that the DORWAY website is updated. I tried for hours to pay one of my assessments online...it was so confusing, difficult and in non-working order that I finally gave up.)

From one "hard working SC woman to another", I am pleading for your help. Thank you for your consideration.