



Dear Mr. Oman,

The Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce, alongside the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce continues to work to provide relief options for Mille Lacs County businesses given the economic hardship created by the COVID-19 crisis. For many businesses, short-term survival is critical, but long-term recovery is also an essential consideration.

Our employers have been doing all they can to ensure the health and safety of their employees and their customers while also trying to maintain the on-going viability of their businesses. Many businesses have been required to shut their doors or have seen a tremendous drop in their revenue. This is placing a serious strain on the continuing viability of some employers.

Many businesses are experiencing severe cash flow issues and will not have the resources to pay their May 15 property tax payment. To that end, the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce, along with other local chamber partners across the state, are advocating for a 60-day extension for May 15 business property tax payment. This request is for a 60-day extension of the May 15 first half property tax payment for business property taxpayers without incurring penalty and interest. A property tax payment extension would provide some short-term relief and cash flow assistance to businesses.

Mille Lacs County has the authority under current law to abate penalties and interest for property taxes as well as to abate property taxes. We are just asking for a 60-day extension, which will help impact the cash flow for Mille Lacs County businesses. A delay will be extremely helpful for the continuity of operations and will allow impacted businesses to focus on retaining employees and pay other fixed expenses. This delay will also assist businesses that lease properties by providing relief to building owners, allowing them to work with their tenants on extension for payment. A 60-day delay will allow for businesses to be able to access federal and state resources that they may be eligible for but may not be able to access immediately.

Businesses in virtually every industry, all sizes and throughout Mille Lacs County have been negatively impacted. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is requesting the Governor take action on this request as well so that there is uniformity statewide. We are asking local officials to support the 60-day delay in the property tax payment. A delay is important to help save their main street businesses and the important economic activity and support they bring to their local communities.

Sincerely and on behalf of the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors,

Kim Young, Executive Director