

Christina Harris
[REDACTED]

February 24th, 2021

Dear Auburn City Council,

My name is Christina Harris, folks call me Christie. I work at the Auburn Fred Meyer in the bakery department.. Over 40 of my fellow coworkers have tested positive for Covid-19. Some of them have lost grandparents, aunts, uncles and even children. One fellow co-worker in particular lost both her grandparents and both of her young sons were infected. Another is in his twenties and can no longer walk up the hill to work without gasping for air; he had the Covid-19 in August of 2020. Twenty percent of us have been infected with the Corona virus, twenty percent of us will get it; one in five.

When the virus first reared its deadly head, we grocery store workers started wearing masks only to be told by Kroger that we would face progressive discipline if we continued to do so. They knew this virus was lethal, yet they refused to put our safety above their precious Covid profits which are close to three billion dollars I'm told. I'm lucky to be a part of union that has bargained for our right to wear masks and institute basic precautions. We got Kroger to agree to plexiglass shields and to disinfect commonly touched surfaces once an hour. They no longer disinfect these surfaces and refuse to agree to do so. They do an overhead announcement to clean our work areas but we all know it's just for show, it absolutely does not get done and they absolutely know it.

Some folks don't wear masks when they come in to shop, Kroger has decided they're allowed to go about their business despite the risk to us and the rest of the customers. We've been physically threatened, spit on, hit, and been called every name in the book. Also, Fred Meyer has apparel, home and garden square footage with low customer traffic yet refuse to take this into account when calculating they 25% occupancy rate as mandated by the Governor. This leaves the grocery department with over-crowded choke points; employees and customers are inches away from each other for prolonged periods of time yet Kroger doesn't seem to care about this either.

My husband is immune-compromised. After I've clocked out and left the Fred Meyer building I lather on hand sanitizer before I get in my car so I don't take the virus home with me. Immediately when I first walk through my front door, I must take my clothes and put them straight into a special hamper downstairs, then I wash up and only then do I greet my husband and pets.

Because of Covid-19, there have been so many folks calling in sick which of course increases the workload for the rest of us. I'm absolutely exhausted and burned-out when I get home. Add to that the stress of a potential infection for me or my loved ones due to my job as a grocery store worker and top it off with sleepless nights of worrying about this virus and we grocery store workers aren't doing so well.

I love my job. I'm proud to be an essential worker that provides for our food supply. I believe that keeping myself safe and healthy is a responsibility to my coworkers, our customers and my Auburn community.

All of this goes through my head as I stare at the handle of the door to the employee entrance. Even before I walk into the building to start my day, I look at this handle that has been touched hundreds of times a day by my fellow coworkers but is never sanitized. Then I make my way to the time clock whose surface is also touched hundreds of times a day yet never sanitized. Even before I start my day at Kroger's Fred Meyer, the risks of my job stare at me loud and clear. Kroger's response to the people whose hard work creates their precious profits is equally loud and clear. Kroger's CEO received an over 20 million dollar salary during these times. For these reasons and more I humbly ask the Auburn City Council to pass a hazard pay ordinance for grocery store workers.

Thank you so much,
Christina Harris





May 3, 2021

Auburn City Council
25 W Main St,
Auburn, WA 98001

Dear Auburn City Council:

My name is Greg Saar, and I am the President/CEO of Saar's Inc. Saar's owns and operates eight grocery stores in the Puget Sound area, including one in Auburn. At our Auburn store we employ over 50 individuals. Saars Super Saver Foods has been family owned and operated since 1988, and we pay above minimum wage and offer valuable health and pension benefits to our employees. I am sending this letter today urging you to alter the definition of "Grocery Store" in your ordinance to read 500 worldwide employees rather than 250 worldwide employees.

Being a local grocery store chain we do not share in all the benefits of a nationwide grocery store chain like Safeway or Kroger. Due to their immense size (Safeway owns 2,253 store locations) large grocery store chains can purchase products at much lower prices than we can at Saars. Large chains can also support unprofitable store locations, because of the sheer number and expansiveness of their grocery store locations.

Hazard Pay would severely effect Saars Super Saver Foods. Being a small, and solely local, grocery store chain this abrupt increase in pay rates would have a far greater effect on our company than any of the large grocery store chains located in Auburn. As a member of the Auburn community for many years I hope you take our request into consideration when you finalize Auburn's hazard pay ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Saar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" and "S".

Greg Saar

Teresa Mattingly

From: Bob Zimmerman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Shawn Campbell
Subject: City council public input

Bob Zimmerman 3 [REDACTED] 46th Place South

Annexing into Auburn had serious consequences with profound negative health effects. Mayor Backus, council, and staff are not smarter than the millions who developed the propane, fire, and building codes over the last century. The US is currently experiencing what Madison tried to prevent in the Constitution; narcissistic radical mob rule. James F Welles, Ph.D. mentioned in 1995, if enough people take his book seriously, we might save civilization. History is repeating itself. 2000 years ago barbarians brought down the Roman Empire. If this narcissism crisis does not end soon, the experts exposed in the Dunning-Kruger Effect will prevail.

People who have actually spent their careers doing productive work in industry identifying failures, correcting engineer's designs, and making processes safe experience serious stress and anxiety watching nasty Backus policies set us up for death and destruction. This is the 8th time I have gone up against authoritarian bullies addressing safety violations to save the lives of a large group of people.

The first time was an idiot exhausting heater fumes into a job site to save heat. There were about 35 workmen on the site apparently suffering groupthink did as they were told. I objected to carbon monoxide poisoning. The idiot told me he would have me removed from the job. I told him he was too late. I will notify Labor and Industries to come to look for survivors. He was the stupidest person I had ever met prior to annexation. Your coordinated effort to destroy homes, injure, and kill needs criminal prosecution. Torture and threatening lives are felonies.

The lying needs to stop. Dangerous projects did not meet code when installed. The codes were adopted decades before the first violation in 2010.

Councilpersons, you should take your oath of office seriously. I have not found any criminal violation in state law for ignoring it. Mayor Backus is committing a gross misdemeanor ignoring enforcement of state law. My nephew, the Thurston County Sheriff told me the only way to get the dangerous propane violation addressed is an FBI fraud investigation.