

June 2, 2020

Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of my colleagues at Rain or Shine Tents and all the assorted Vermont rental companies, without whom, our state's wedding and events industry would not be possible.

As a seasoned event planner I can attest to the tremendous significance of this sector of the event industry. There hasn't been a single event in my 12+ years – inside or outside, small or large – when I haven't needed the services of a rental company. They are literally the backbone of summer events in this state and without them, there would be no tents for the numerous weddings and events our state hosts each year, no tables or chairs for guests, no stages for bands to play on, or lights to brighten the night. Without them, virtually no events will be possible; tourism dollars will dwindle as will tax revenues. Businesses will close and unemployment numbers rise.

It's also clear to me that if larger companies like Rain or Shine Tents and others are not financially supported through this crisis, the trickle-down effect will mean that smaller outfits like mine, (who've already had to make the tough call to close for the summer,) will instead be closed permanently and events in Vermont will cease to exist - period. No weddings. No art shows. No beer fests. No community celebrations. Not this year and not in the foreseeable future.

Therefore I urge you to please consider supporting the rental companies in our state so they can survive this ordeal. Otherwise Vermont's entire event infrastructure will become like a leaf-less maple tree that no longer produces syrup.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Megan Schultz  
Owner, Meg's Events  
Moretown, VT