

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



MEASURE: SB 349
EXHIBIT: C
Senate Finance and Revenue 76th Session
DATE: 03-11-2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Sen. Jackie Dingfelder

OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST. NE S-407
SALEM, OR 97301

To: Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
From: Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Senate District 23
Date: March 11th, 2011

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 349

Chair Burdick and members of the committee, thank you for hearing SB 349 and for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of this bill.

If everything were fair, the pay we receive from our jobs would cover our expenses and we would still have a little left over each month. However, we all know that too many Oregonians work hard each week at a job, perhaps even at multiple jobs, and simply can't keep up with the rising costs of housing, food, electricity, and other necessities. For these Oregonians struggling to stay afloat, there is something we can do to help—we can expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (or EITC).

It's hard to understate the importance of increasing Oregon's EITC to 18% of the federal credit. After quickly looking at the numbers for my own district, I learned that a little over 7,700 families in my area claimed the federal EITC in 2007. That totaled an estimated \$665,015 dollars that were put back into my district through the EITC in 2007. At 18% of the federal credit, it could be almost \$2 million, an incredible difference for families and businesses owners in just this one corner of Oregon.

Through my work with the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, I've learned that Oregon's working-poor and near-poor families pay some of the highest state income taxes in the nation. Yet I've also learned that the EITC is the most targeted way we have to support these families and make our tax system a little bit fairer. I ask that you join me in supporting Oregon's working families by expanding the EITC.

