

## Oregon

April 4, 2013

**Re: SB 807 – Transparency and Oversight for Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO)**

On behalf of NFIB Oregon and our 7,500 small business members we **support** SB 807 and its intent to create more transparency and oversight for the Energy Trust of Oregon.

Our members are rate payers whose utility costs can be a significant portion of their overhead. They contribute to the ETO via a 6% or more monthly Public Purpose Charge that basically is a tariff for the benefit of the ETO.

The growth of the ETO fund has been quite remarkable from approximately \$398,000 in 2001 to \$146 million in 2012. In just one year – between 2009 and 2010 – the total revenues collected increased by 36% with over 400% in growth since its inception in 2000.

Oregon has often communicated its commitment to more transparency in government. Since our members contribute to the OTE fund, we believe they should have the benefit of transparency including an annual audit of the income received by OTE and the benefit given in return to the rate payers who fund and support ETO. Where does the money go? What benefits does it produce? Maybe it is time and appropriate to look at a reduction in the Public Purpose Charge as well.

**NFIB supports SB 807 and ask for your support.**