

May 23, 2013

To: Chairs Burdick and Barnhart and Joint Committee on Tax Credits Members
From: Main Street Alliance Business Owners
Re: Renew and strengthen the Oregon EITC

What will prompt small businesses to create jobs and help get the economy back on track? Having “more customers,” according to a recent survey of small business owners.

And what creates a customer? Having money in working families’ pockets.

This year, as Oregon state legislators, you have the opportunity to make sure that a quarter of a million struggling Oregon families have money in their pockets to spend in their communities by renewing and strengthening Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The credit, which helps low- and moderate-income working families, is scheduled to expire at the end of 2013.

Main Street Alliance of Oregon asks you to extend and provide a meaningful boost to Oregon’s state EITC by raising it from 6 to 8 percent of the federal credit, as recommended in Governor Kitzhaber’s budget.

This will benefit small businesses and communities throughout Oregon:

- Working families will have more money to cover basics such as groceries, rent, utility bills and car repairs. These dollars are spent in local businesses.
- EITC spending reaches communities in every legislative district across our state.
- Low-income workers will be better able to cover work-related costs such as transportation and childcare, thereby strengthening our workforce.
- Many small business owners themselves who file for taxes as individuals receive the EITC to help support their families, educate themselves and keep their businesses alive and growing. More than 14 percent of filers with small-business income claim the EITC.
- In conjunction with the federal EITC, Oregon’s EITC will continue to serve as part of our nation’s most effective program for lifting working families out of poverty.

The following Oregon small business owners urge you to renew and strengthen Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit, the tax credit for working families.

Yours Respectfully,

Andy Stone, Experiential Methods, Portland
Barbara Campbell, Wabi Sabi Bend LLC, Bend
Catherine Matthias, Stewart Jones Designs, Joseph
Christopher DeVito, DeVito Insurance, Silverton
Denise Sprengelmeyer, MODERN, Eugene
Diana Richardson, Retired, Portland
Gloria McMurtry, Talking Drum, Portland

Dr. Harriet Cooke, MD, Portland
Jim Houser, Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland
Joan Kleban, Greater Goods Inc, Eugene
Jon Riegel, Jack of All Beads, LLC, McMinnville
Jose Gonzalez, Tu Casa Real Estate, Salem
Kate Lindburg, Animal Crackers Pet Supply, Corvallis
Leta Barclift, Pioneer Electric, The Dalles
Mark S Kellenbeck, BrainJoy LLC, Phoenix

*Martha Taylor, The Immortal Piano Company,
Portland*

Mike Nagle, Uppercut Barber Shop, The Dalles

Nancy E Bahr, Found Objects, McMinnville

*Michael Barthmus, Doppio Coffee + Lounge,
Hood River*

*Nancy Newell, Oregon Green Energy Coalition,
Portland*

Rex Hagans, Hazelnut Grower, Oregon City

RJ McHatton, Inventive Productions, Bend

Robert Harris, Harris Law Firm, Hillsboro

*Serena Cruz Walsh, Albina Construction, LLC,
Portland*

*Steve Hanrahan, Mirador Community Store,
Portland*

Steve Robinson, Decision Metrics, Eugene

Tamra Hart, Two Harts Photography, Salem

*Stephen Michael, Sasquatch Environmental
Consulting, Portland*