

June 21, 2013

To: Chair Barnhart and House Committee on Revenue

From: Main Street Alliance Business Owners

Re: Renew and strengthen the Oregon EITC, Support HB 2477 and SB 326

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 support HB 2477 and SB 326. 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 support HB 2477 and SB 326. 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,  
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Steve Robinson, Decision Metrics, Eugene  
Tamra Hart, Two Harts Photography, Salem  
Stephen Michael, Sasquatch Environmental  
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