



Dear Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood:

The Oregon Business Council Poverty Task Force is pleased to support **SB 50 and SB 51** regarding renewal of the tax credits for the Individual Development Account program. Reducing poverty below 10% by 2020 is one of the Oregon Business Plan goals and the OBC Poverty Task Force has adopted short and long term initiatives to contribute to achieving that goal. For the 2015 legislative session we have adopted seven action items. Because we believe it is a very important element of our work to reduce poverty and increase long term resilience of families, one of the seven items we are advocating for is extending the sunset of the Oregon IDA tax credit.

We believe that people need a safety net but that Oregonians can't spend their way out of poverty. They need the ability to build assets to invest in themselves and their families. A family with an IDA not only has the ability to invest in themselves to get a better job, buy a house, start a business and other ways of advancing themselves, but they also learn budgeting skills and the importance of saving. Such skills not only help the family but provide examples for children of the benefits of saving. The Oregon IDA initiative is one of the most successful in the country and the tax credit is an important part of that success.

Action is needed from the Oregon Legislature as the IDA 75% tax credit sunsets in 2016. We respectfully request that you renew and extend the tax credit to 2022, increase the cap on the credit to \$25M over the next six years and expand the purposes for which an IDA can be used to better serve communities and families across the state.

Thank you for your service to those most in need.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Wyse", written in a cursive style.

Duncan Wyse, President, Oregon Business Council

Randy Miller, President, Produce Row Property Management Company and OBC Poverty TF member

Bill Thorndike, President, Medford Fabrication and OBC Poverty TF member

Dave Underriner, Chief Executive, Providence Health Systems and OBC Poverty TF Chair