



Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants

10206 SW Laurel Street Beaverton, Oregon 97005-3209 • PO Box 4555 Beaverton, Oregon 97076-4555
503-641-7200 / 1-800-255-1470 • Fax 503-626-2942
oscpa@orcpa.org • www.orcpa.org

February 22, 2017

Testimony in favor of HB 2156 and HB 2157
Presented by Clinton J Bentz, CPA
House Committee on Revenue

Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chairs Bentz and Smith-Warner,

I come before you today to speak in favor of HB 2156 and HB 2157. HB 2156 requires the Department of Revenue to establish and maintain a toll free number and other electronic means of communication where businesses can reach out to staff at the Oregon Department of Revenue to ask questions and resolve issues concerning their tax situations and resolve their questions in an expedited manner. HB 2157 requires the Department to do the same thing for Certified Public Accountants who have questions regarding their client's tax situations.

The Department of Revenue has worked hard to be responsive to the business community and the tax practitioner community and we appreciate their efforts. Adding 800 number access to people inside the Department who can help answer tax questions and expedite getting answers to problems helps all Oregon businesses and tax practitioners who for the most part are outside of the local calling area for Salem.

We all rely on the willingness of individuals and businesses to voluntarily comply with the tax code. As Oregon businesses grow increasing complex and the tax code tries to keep up, it is important to have prompt access to people in the Department with the necessary training and expertise to help us resolve tax issues before they become problems, and to resolve problems quickly when they happen. These two bills direct the Department to monitor and provide staffing sufficient to answer these questions and resolve issues in an expedited manner. This is critical legislative guidance to the Department and will help ensure that businesses and tax practitioners receive the prompt assistance they need in order to comply timely with Oregon's ever changing tax code.

In addition, increasing the ability to communicate electronically with the Department in an expedited fashion is also necessary, especially during the tax filing season when we are all under fairly strict timelines to find the answers to the questions our clients are bringing in to us and get their returns filed timely. Hopefully this will mean adding the ability to securely upload documents and electronically share confidential client information with the Department without having to rely solely on mail or fax machines.

I encourage your support of these two common sense bills and am happy to answer any questions you might have regarding them.

Sincerely,

Clint Bentz, CPA
Boldt Carlisle Smith LLC
(541) 928-3354
cbentz@bcslc.com