

House Revenue Committee
March 16th, 2017

Iris Hodge on Behalf of MSA Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee members,

Good afternoon, my name is Iris Hodge, I'm the Outreach coordinator for Main Street Alliance. The Main Street Alliance of Oregon is a network of over 3500 small businesses. MSAO is in support of HB 2019 because small businesses pay their fair share of taxes and we believe large corporations should do the same.

With Oregon facing a \$1.7 billion deficit we must do more to find revenue to support our most vulnerable communities. The cuts that our communities will face if we don't begin to make large corporations be held accountable, will leave thousands of Oregonians without the vital services they need to be healthy members of our communities.

As the Outreach Coordinator, I've met hundreds of business owners across the state, who are paying upwards of 18% towards their corporate taxes. These business owners are doing all they can to support their communities from paying living wages, and supporting policy that benefits low wage workers like supporting affordable healthcare and paid family leave. It's time for big corporations to operate more transparently if they want to do business in Oregon.

HB 2019 will ask the Legislative Revenue Office to publish the names of C corporations that have claimed a certain amount in Oregon tax credits or exemptions. We believe that this information will tell us which big corporations are paying their fair share, and which ones are getting the biggest subsidies from other taxpayers. This will level the playing field for those Main Street businesses that already operate in a fair and transparent manner.

We urge you to support HB 2019 because it's time for Oregon's big business community to stop divesting from the state and start investing in the communities they operate in.

Sincerely,

Iris Hodge