

House Committee on Revenue

March 13th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

I am Denise Jessup, and I own my own small business as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I live in Eugene and am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

Oregon needs revenue reform. As a therapist, I am concerned about the level of mental health care available to those without means to pay. As a parent of a public school student, I am discouraged by the lack of school funding. We need to know what corporations are paying in taxes so that we can require them to step up and pay appropriate taxes.

In closing, I support HB 2019 because **it's time that large corporations pay their fair share** and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. Oregon must start doing more with more and not less with less; **I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too.** That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

*Denise Jessup LMFT
Eugene, Oregon*

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Dr. Carolyn Harper Knox. I am retired faculty from the University of Oregon and live in Eugene.

For quite some time I have been concerned about the roll back of corporate taxes and the way it affected schools in Oregon. As a mother, I can assure you that Oregon public schools were among the top in the nation in the 70s and 80s before the roll back of taxes. Afterwards, classrooms became over-packed with students--severely decreasing the quality of education for them and severely increasing the dropout rate of qualified teachers.

The State of Oregon is mandated to fund the basic educational needs of its children, and we expect our schools to return to their formerly high status. That is the essential wish of every parent--including every parent who moves to this state for corporate jobs. Since public schools are funded by taxes, we need corporations to pay their fair share. They may already be paying their fair share, however how can anyone know that unless the relevant data is publicly available.

I'm sure you want Oregon citizens to welcome corporations into our cities and towns. In order to make that happen you must be sure Oregon citizens are informed. We **MUST KNOW** the truth about what these corporations bring to the table in terms of benefits to our community.

I support HB 2019 since it would create a transparent system of reporting taxes corporations currently pay.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Harper Knox, Phd.

Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

My name is Kari Parsons and I am the owner of a small corporation in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to urge your support of HB 2019. In order to make good policy, we need good information. This bill does just that. This information will empower us to make informed decisions with respect to revenue and taxation. To date, the lack of information is a key contributor to our state's inability, year after year, to craft and pass stable, fair and progressive tax policy. Please support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Kari Parsons

Parsons Consulting

Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Turnblom. I am a concerned citizen of Oregon, live in Eugene and am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I support HB 2019, which would allow LRO to publish, along with the names of large corporations, their Oregon sales, Oregon taxable income, total amount of Oregon tax credits or exemptions, Oregon tax liability and Oregon property and income taxes paid. Having this information will allow me to make decisions about where to spend my hard-earned paycheck.

It is ridiculous that corporations pay so little tax that my high school student can't get all of the Spanish classes she wants to take in order to get an IB Diploma. Every year schools are asked to teach our students with less and less. My daughter deserves a high school education in a school system that is funded enough to have an adequate teaching staff (so classes are not huge) and course offerings (almost no electives are available at my daughter's high school).

In closing, I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Susan Turnblom
Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

14 March 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Barbara Dellenback, and I am a native Oregonian, living in Eugene. I am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build a United States that works for all of us."

Oregonians love our state for a myriad of reasons. In order for the systems that support us to survive, we have to make revenue choices that will sustain us for generations to come. Small businesses are paying an unfair portion of taxes that fund much of our infrastructure, while it appears large corporations are not paying enough.

HB 2019 is an effort to publicize exactly what the large corporations are contributing to our state. I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay.

I ask you to put into place a process of transparency for all of us and pass HB 2019. Please help the large corporations do their part by paying proper taxes to support the services that sustain us.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dellenback

Eugene, Oregon

March 15, 2017

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2019. I believe that if we do not address state revenue reform, specifically corporate tax reform, our current problems will become insurmountable.

I am a speech-language pathologist, working with preschool-aged children with disabilities, and I see first-hand the problems that struggling families face. I am a parent of teenagers and my kids experience the devastating effects of inadequate school funding daily. I am tired of hearing about our lack of funding and I believe it is time to act.

Oregon corporations must pay their fair share. It is inexcusable to allow them to pay one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the nation as our deficit and budget woes increase. There is no room left to cut in our budget – we already skimp on vital services. I believe that requiring a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay is the first step in corporate tax reform. That is why I support HB 2019 and I hope you do too.

Thank you for all your hard work – I know you have a very difficult job to do.

Sincerely,

Mindy Schlossberg
Eugene, OR

House Committee on Revenue
March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Nancy Wallace . I am a concerned citizen of Eugene, Oregon, and am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

During the run up to the November election there was much publicity about Measure 97 hurting businesses because of the tax burden it would create on businesses. Not having access to what taxes big businesses pay or do not pay leaves us without the information needed to really access whether large corporations are paying their fair share and made it possible for them to make claims that could not be sufficiently refuted. Let's give Oregon the power of seeing behind the rhetoric.

In closing, I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace
Eugene, Oregon

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Jen Thoennes and I was born, raised and educated here in Oregon. I am the mother of three, a preschool teacher, a volunteer, a nature lover, and a proud Oregonian currently living in Eugene. I am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I am deeply concerned about our current state budget deficit. I'm not sure how to solve this problem easily, but one step is asking corporations to report their property and income taxes paid. Oregon citizens deserve this transparency as we tackle ways to keep our great state a great place to live and raise a family, not just run big businesses.

I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; **I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.**

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on what I believe to be a very important issue to the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jen Thoennes
Eugene, Oregon

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

My name is Oriana Kahn Hurwit. Together with my husband, I live in Eugene. Since the election in November, I have become increasingly politically active and am involved with TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us." My worries about what is happening on the National level have me more convinced than ever that working locally is the best option we have for creating a fair and equitable society.

I write today to ask you to support HB 2019 and take the necessary steps towards enacting corporate tax reform. As you know, Oregon is facing a 1.7 billion dollar budget deficit this year, thanks to our dead-last rates in corporate taxes. I attended the Budget Road Show in Eugene last month. The message repeated over and over again, with each testimony given, was that this must change to guarantee the important services we all want and need.

HB 2019 will tell us which big corporations are paying their fair share, and which ones are getting the biggest subsidies from other taxpayers. Having a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay is essential to put us on the road to economic recovery.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Oriana Kahn Hurwit
Eugene OR

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

March 14th, 2017

House Committee on Revenue

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is *Marc Schlossberg* and I am a concerned Oregonian who has raised three children in Oregon, two of whom are in high school and one now in college. I live in Eugene and am a Professor at the University of Oregon who works with students and communities across our State on issues of community vibrancy, quality of life, public engagement, sustainability, and our economic competitive advantages here in Oregon.

I am also part of TakeAction! Eugene (TAE), a new organization that has arisen to give voice to political newcomers and to those who now recognize we should have been more engaged in local, State, and national policy making than we have been. The purpose of TAE is "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I am writing in support of HB 2019 because I believe you cannot make smart decisions about appropriate taxation, revenue, and expenditures unless you know what corporations actually pay in Oregon taxes. Based on my professional work, I know that Oregon has many competitive advantages relative to much of the country to attract employers and retain the workforce they want based on the quality of life here. Young talent now prefer to live in communities where they can walk, bike, and carshare to work and other destinations, want access to vibrant farm and protected forest land, and want to live in communities where the basic needs of our most disadvantaged are met. For employers like the University of Oregon, it is critical that community schools are thriving as it will be impossible to attract top researchers and faculty if local schools are underfunded and subpar (not to mention the financial burden on today's college students). All of these pieces of the Oregon way of life are under threat due to our taxation structure.

I am tired of Oregon always trying to do less with less and now is the time we begin doing more with more. I strongly believe that our low taxation rate on corporations means they are not paying their fair share and revenue reform must be undertaken to address this inequity. I'm supporting HB 2019 because it helps get actual data about corporate taxation in Oregon. **None of us want companies to go out of business because they are over taxed, but it is hard to figure out what that right tax amount is without transparency and that is what HB 2019 will bring about.**

Thank you for your public service and accepting this testimony on a very important issue.

Sincerely,
Marc Schlossberg
Eugene, OR

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

My name is Emily Heilbrun. I am a concerned citizen of Eugene, Oregon and a member of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

HB 2019 is key to having Oregon move toward a system that includes a fair tax on large corporations. Many of our services have already been cut. We cannot cut more. I am particularly concerned about schools. I volunteer in my neighborhood school and also work with a sixth grader with learning disabilities. Class sizes are too large and our students do not have the resources they need as it is.

In closing, I support HB 2019 because large corporations need to pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. Oregon needs to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Heilbrun

Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

March 14, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Beth Penny. I am a concerned citizen of Oregon. I live in Eugene and have called it home for 40 years.

I am involved with Take Action! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, to defend our democracy, and build an America that works for everyone.

I support HB 2019 for transparency of Oregon taxes. We need corporations to pitch in their fair share of taxes to fund the critical services and schools that we rely on. We want and need tax policies that are right for our economy. We need better information to determine what corporations fair share would be. We have very little data available to us because of Oregon's weak disclosure laws. That is why we need HB 2019.

I support HB 2019 because it is time that large corporations pay their fair share. I pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Beth Penny
Eugene, OR

House Committee on Revenue

March 15th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Carol Yahner. I am a small business owner and concerned citizen of Oregon. I live in Eugene, Oregon and have a massage therapy practice here. I also participate with an a group of friends and neighbors called TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I believe that our Oregon legislative body needs to step up and provide leadership for our communities; especially for the educational needs of our kids. We used to have our kids at the local public school. Even though teachers taught to the best of their ability, the over-crowded classrooms were difficult for two of my three kids. Once P.E. classes and art instruction were drastically reduced as well, we made the difficult decision to shift to a private school. Our family has the financial luxury to consider this alternative whereas the majority of Oregonians do not. All of our kids in the state of Oregon are being failed by a lack of leadership. We need legislators like yourselves to educate the public about the poor conditions of our schools and create 'roundtable discussion groups' where all the various stakeholders can come together and discuss solutions. We need legislators to seriously revisit Measure 5 and what changes can be made. Oregon needs revenue and this revenue needs to be re-invested into our schools to create engaged learning environments where all kids thrive and become solid, tax-paying citizens themselves.

In order for the creation of revenue streams, we need large corporations to pay their fair share of taxes and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a **transparent system** of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Carol Yahner, LMT
Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Jan Wagner. I am a retired teacher, live in Eugene and am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

Our state's budget shortfall is dire and I see effects firsthand when I go back to the middle school where I taught for 22 years. I guest-teach there now and it's clear that budget cuts are having serious effects on education. Classrooms are shuttered where there were once shop classes and cooking classes. Spanish classes were cut and band was reduced. Students used to choose from a collection of electives to explore new ideas and different topics. Now they have 'selectives'--no choices. It's not a good situation as teachers continually do more with less.

We need to increase revenue and it's clear that larges corporations get off easy in Oregon, with our state being dead last in corporate tax rate. That needs to change.

In closing, I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.
Sincerely,

*Jan Wagner
Eugene, Oregon*

March 15, 2017

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Susan Levine Friedman. I am a parent, grandparent, small business owner, and concerned citizen of Oregon, and part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I have seen funding for schools, police and fire protection dwindle in our communities throughout Oregon and find it discouraging and frightening. The idea that my grandchildren are less safe and less served keeps me awake at night. And it is unnecessary.

I support HB 2019 because it is time that large corporations pay their fair share of taxes. We can only know what that is if there is a transparent system of what corporations are currently paying. As a sole practitioner I pay a hefty share of taxes and expect that corporations would do the same.

Thanks you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this essential and critical issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Levine Friedman LCSW

Eugene, Oregon

House Committee on Revenue

March 14th, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee,

My name is Luke Adler. I am a small business owner, living in Eugene and am part of TakeAction! Eugene, an organization that is based on "Taking action to protect our communities, defend our democracy, and build an America that works for all of us."

I am about to be a dad for the second time and am thinking about the future of my daughters. There needs to be more revenue sources and corporate companies need to start paying their share. My daughters, and all Oregonians, deserve quality derives that would otherwise be lost without this revenue.

In closing, I support HB 2019 because it's time that large corporations pay their fair share and we can only know what that fair share is if there is a transparent system of reporting what corporations currently pay. I believe it is time for Oregon to start doing more with more and not less with less; I definitely pay my fair share of Oregon taxes and I expect corporations to do so too. That's why I support HB 2019.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Luke Adler
Luke Adler Healing
Eugene, OR