

House Revenue Committee
March 16th, 2017

Shaun Sieren Testimony in Support of HB 2019

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members,

My name is Shaun Sieren, and I am the owner of The O'Neill Pub in Portland and a member of Main Street Alliance of Oregon. Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on this matter.

I strongly support HB 2019 and I'll tell you why, as a small business owner, I pay my fair share of taxes and I believe that all businesses should do the same. HB 2019 feels like a no-brainer when we are facing a 1.7 Billion dollar deficit in our state budget. Our most important services are on the chopping block and I believe those dodging their responsibilities are a big part of the problem. Because, HB 2019 would require the Legislative Revenue Office to publish corporate tax information gathered from state tax returns, we would have a good idea which big corporations are paying their fair share, and which ones are getting the biggest subsidies from other taxpaying Oregonians.

This deficit that we face is very concerning to me as a parent, as well. My daughter's education is at stake, as well as the children of my employees. We need this possible revenue for our schools, that are being threatened by the federal political environment, as well. How can we expect to have an educated citizenry when we are letting these large corporations get away with operating with an air of secrecy? Our children deserve better than that.

We can all agree that we need to do something to create revenue in this state, I support HB 2019 because I believe we must start with those that are not investing in the communities that they do business in. In these very uncertain times, we must do all we can to support the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Sincerely,

Shaun Sieren
The O'Neill Pub
Portland, OR