

Good afternoon, Chair Burdick and members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Fish. I'm from Portland, and I'm a public school teacher in Lake Oswego.

I strongly support Senate Bill 888.

Oregonians expect transparency from their political candidates and public administrators. As this committee is well aware, a broad array of officials must submit documents revealing their economic ties and sources of income to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

Two years ago, the importance of detailed financial disclosures became obvious to Oregonians during the ethics controversy connected to former Governor Kitzhaber. In the aftermath of the investigation and his resignation, both Republicans and Democrats pushed for broader and stricter laws to reveal elected officials' economic interests. In Oregon, transparency and accountability have been bipartisan issues.

Oregonians are accustomed to being able to verify that any government administrator is acting on behalf of the *state's* best interest and not on behalf of his or her personal interest.

Oregonians also expect presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns. Indeed, for nearly 40 years, almost every presidential candidate has voluntarily published this information. Senate Bill 888 simply codifies this common practice. This information is essential to maintaining public trust in our nation's most important public institutions.

During the 2016 campaign, President Trump repeatedly stated that he would eventually publish his tax returns. While some Oregonians voted for President Trump and some did not, all Oregon voters deserve to have the President keep his word and release these documents. Voting for or against President Trump in the most recent election was *not* a referendum on whether or not presidents should release their tax returns. Because of his campaign promises, Republican and Democratic voters still want and expect this critical information to be made public.

The failure of President Trump to release his taxes has cast a cloud over his administration. Requiring future candidates to divulge such information will either bring to voters' attention potential conflicts of interest, or put to rest any questions of such conflicts.

Though all Presidential candidates must complete an "Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report," this information is not specific enough to alleviate the public's concerns about potential conflicts of interest. Only candidates' tax returns give valuable details on their effective tax rates, reveal the types of taxes they pay, show how much they give to charity, and most critically, offer a *detailed* picture of their income-producing assets.

Oregonians care about financial transparency. Please support and pass Senate Bill 888. Ensure that in the future, Oregonians will have as much information about presidential candidates as they used to.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.