



April 29, 2017

House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 398A: Notice of State & Federal Income Tax Credits.

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Barreto, Vice-Chair Bynum, and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

I am writing to share the City of Beaverton's support for Senate Bill 398A, which could increase the rate of participation of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) opportunities among eligible workers in our community. Our volunteer tax assistance program in partnership with CASH Oregon and AARP Tax Aide, provides free tax assistance to our community members and encourages eligible low and middle income families to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).

Last year, 60 IRS-certified volunteers helped more than 2,000 individuals and families prepare and submit their tax refunds at the Beaverton site, which resulted in close to \$2.8 million in tax refunds. Visitors of the Beaverton tax site had an average adjusted gross income of \$29,401 and received an average return of \$1,759. More than 430 visitors to the Beaverton tax site qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Too often, eligible workers in our community are unaware of the opportunities that exist unless they are participants of programs like the tax assistance program. Requiring employers to provide notice to employees of State and Federal earned income tax credits through their W2 forms can help bring awareness.

Increasing awareness of programs like EITC is essential to providing the much needed resources for Oregon families in poverty. I urge you to support Senate Bill 398A and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick O'Claire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick O'Claire
Finance Director