



February 14, 2019

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 212 Increases percentage of federal earned income credit allowable as credit against Oregon personal income tax.

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Bentz and members of Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue;

On behalf of City of Beaverton, I am writing in support of SB 212. Our volunteer tax assistance program, in partnership with CASH Oregon and AARP Tax Aide, provide 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).

During the 2017 tax season, IRS-certified volunteers helped more than 2,000 families prepare and submit their tax refunds at the Beaverton site, which resulted in \$2.5 million in tax refunds, and 450 taxpayers receiving the EITC.

Increasing the percentage of the Oregon earned income credit to 15% will strengthen this tool and further assist deserving families that struggle to fund their basic needs. Too often EITC is underused leaving millions of dollars on the table. Programs like Beaverton's volunteer tax assistance program help to increase awareness of EITC to eligible families. I urge the Committee to pass this important legislation that will help us tackle poverty in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denny Doyle
Mayor