



# The Taxpayer Reimbursement Act

Vote **YES** on HB 3262

## Why a Taxpayer Reimbursement Act?

***Oregonians subsidize big companies' operations through public assistance programs for underpaid employees.***

This puts a strain on the state budget as well as placing responsible, local businesses at a comparative disadvantage. These taxpayer-supported subsidies are enjoyed by companies such as Wal-Mart and Amazon, which post multibillion dollar profits each year that easily outpace the assistance.

“Walmart's low-wage workers cost U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$6.2 billion in public assistance including food stamps, Medicaid and subsidized housing, according to a report...”

— *Forbes* (Apr 15, 2014)

***Oregon's Taxpayer Reimbursement Act (HB 3262) would curtail this practice by redirecting the subsidies back to these programs!***

## How does it work?

The Taxpayer Reimbursement Act **only** applies to employers that:

 **x 100** Employ over 100 employees

*and* is in one of the following industries:



Food service



Retail (including distribution)



Hospitality



Call center services

Each year, every such large employer will be charged an assessment equal to the amount of the following taxpayer-supported assistance program benefits received by their employees:

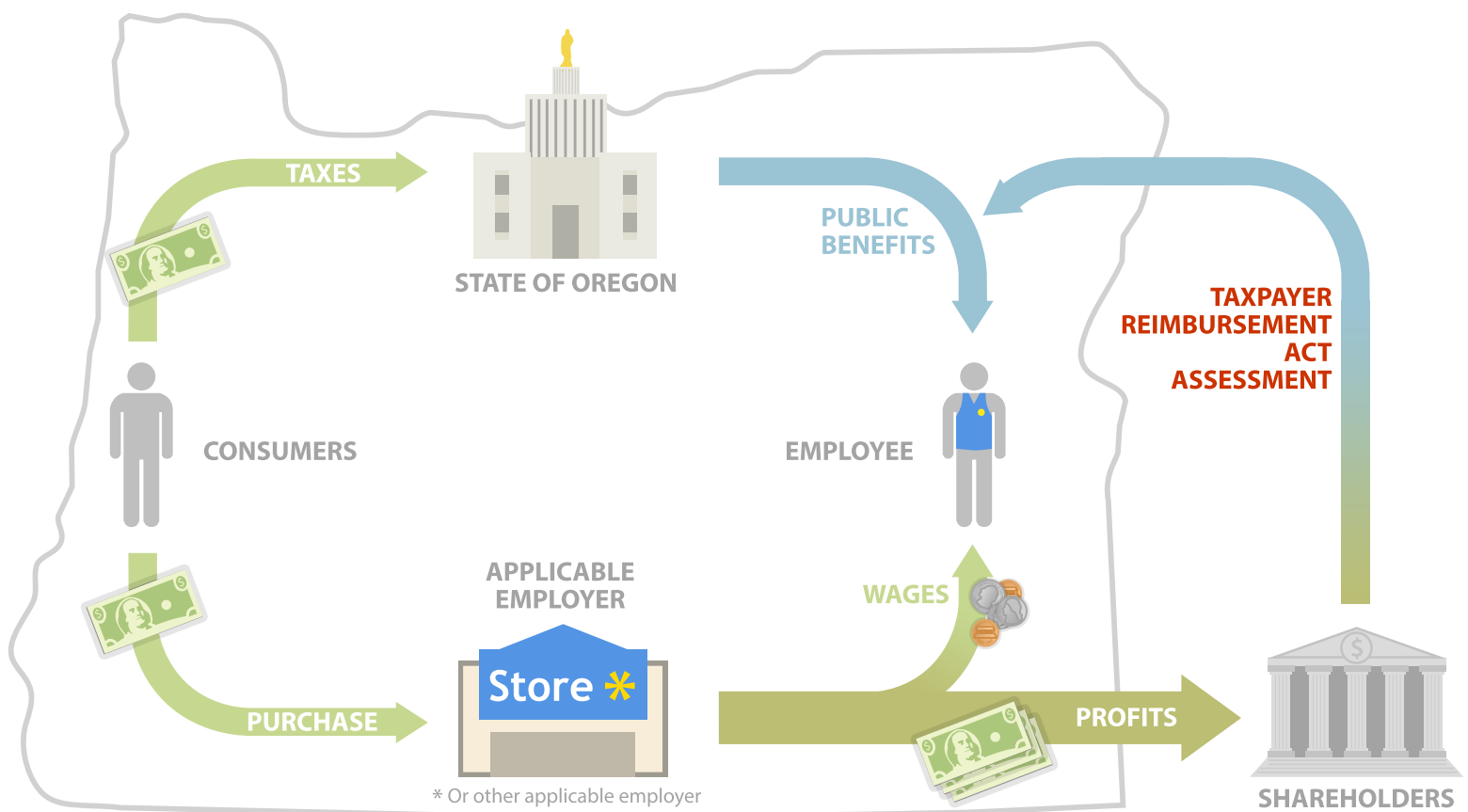
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- The Oregon Supplemental Income Program
- The State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program, and
- General assistance payments (ORS 411.710).

*(These amounts to go to the Oregon Rainy Day Fund.)*  
... and

- The Health Care for All Oregon Children program,
- Medicaid.

*(These amounts will be dedicated to supporting these health care programs.)*

# Vote **YES** on The Taxpayer Reimbursement Act



## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: Wouldn't these companies just raise their prices?**

A: Consumers are already paying for these products or services twice (once at checkout and once through taxes), so that would be more transparent. However, studies have shown that nationwide companies tend to keep prices stable from state to state regardless of tax burdens.

**Q: But aren't these public benefit programs designed to supplement employees' income like this?**

A: Not when large, trillion-dollar (yes, Trillion!) companies specifically chart strategies designed to maximize their profits by lining up in front of taxpayers' wallets. These programs are designed to provide a social safety net for individuals — not a hammock for large shareholders!

**Q: How would this program be paid for?**

A: State agencies charged with calculating and collecting the assessments would be able to recover administrative costs from the assessments, just like many State programs already do.

**Q: What will the impact to employers look like?**

A: It varies based on how employers treat their workforce. For employers that are responsibly paying reasonable wages, the impact would be minimal. Employers that expect taxpayers to subsidize their profits would end up paying more. For example: Walmart's 2018 Annual Report showed a \$123 billion profit on \$500 billion of revenue, compared to a report suggesting that taxpayers provided \$6.2 billion in assistance to its employees.