

Testimony of Dennis Chapman In Support of HB 3028

May 6, 2019

Members of the House Revenue Committee: I am writing in support of HB 3028, which would renew and raise the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

I ask that you pass this bill favorably out of your Committee, and send it for a vote of the full House with a Do Pass recommendation.

The EITC is set to expire in 2020. While you could wait until the 2020 session to address its continuation, renewing it now will ensure its continuation not at the last minute, or as part of a crisis, but as part of our state's commitment to lower wage earning workers. If you support the EITC at all, at any level, then renew it !

The amount of the EITC is currently 8% of the federal tax credit. HB 3028 would raise this to 12%.

Many states are more generous. Why be more generous, you ask ? Because the EITC only goes to those who work. If you support the concept of work, then you should support those who are working !

The other reason you should support the EITC – and HB 3028 – is that it will, in a small way, reduce income inequality in our state. It is obvious to anyone who is informed that income inequality in the U.S. is way out of balance. Oregon is no exception to this. If you want the Oregon tax code to continue this trend, then vote 'no' on this bill. If you want to make a small step to reverse this trend, then please vote 'yes'.

Thank you.

Dennis C. Chapman / HD 43 / Portland OR