

I am Ted Abram and a Member of the Board of Klamath Works. We have an excellent board that represents many different churches and community organizations. An example is Colonel Steve Harper a former Base Commander in Klamath Falls and a former Oregon Senator and Member of the House. Steve is a very active member of the Klamath Works.

About five years ago, many of the present Board of Director voluntarily formed and asked ourselves, "Why do we have people not being productive members of our community." We held over fifty listening sessions with service providers and law enforcement to understand the causes of undesirable behavior.

Today, Klamath Works is headed by Joy McInnis, who is married to a veterinarian and a mother of two children. Joy was a member of the listening group. Through her leadership Klamath Works is a mentoring program that develops work skills but also social and interpersonal skills. Also, Klamath Works with children that have reading disabilities, teenagers attempting to enter the work force, and adults with multiple handicaps and disorders.

I am before your Revenue Committee to convince you that a tax credit for community organizations – charities that discern a person's material and moral needs. Charities that recognize that each person has unique history and special needs of assistance for family stability, their children and their community.

As a Circuit Court Judge in Klamath and Lake Counties I experienced generational neglect and poverty that involve moral and society judgements that government programs are restricted from making. A tax credit for local charities that make moral and personal judgements on the most efficacious means to assist each individual and their family will greatly increase solutions for people in need and strength communities.

The Acton Institute produced an excellent book Transforming Welfare. Professor Glenn Loury of Brown University, explains how community establishes ethical norms in: Values and Judgements: Creating Social Incentives for Good Behavior.

- "We now know that much of the problem of poverty is connected with the dysfunctional patterns of behavior adopted by young people in our various communities.

- At issue here is our capacity as a moral and political community to engage in an effective discourse about values and ways of living, and to convey normative judgments that arise out of that discourse.

- It is therefore the civil sector of families, community organizations, churches and various private philanthropic undertakings that must do the real work of promoting and instilling values.

- Mutually concerned persons who trust one another enough to establish codes of personal conduct, exchange criticism constructively, and enforce social sanctions against that which is judged undesirable behavior, can create and enforce communal norms that lie beyond the capacity of the state to promulgate effectively."

Oregon and America need to allow citizens to direct part of their tax obligations to community charities that discerns the needs of its citizens, and uses all available resources to assist people and their families to become self-sufficient and positive members of their communities.