



Oregon State Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 137 and Emergency Aid to Small Businesses

Dear Chairwoman Burdick, Vice-Chair Boquist and members of the Committee:

My name is Iris Hodge and I own Naive Melody in Oregon City. I also serve on the Executive Committee of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a network of over 3,000 small business owners from across the state. Main Street Alliance is committed to working toward a more just and equitable economy centered around small businesses and our workers.

One of the never-ending struggles for small businesses is competing with large, well-funded multinational corporations. While I work with a single CPA that has many clients, these corporations have tax divisions and hundreds of staff focused on keeping their tax bill as small as possible. These skillful professionals have come up with schemes like the “double Irish with a Dutch sandwich” and other absurd sounding tax avoidance efforts that take advantage of low tax rates and loopholes in tax havens. A small Oregon business does not have a tax division, does not have a subsidiary in the Cayman Islands, and is not taking advantage of these gimmicks.

These large corporations also employ dozens of lobbyists in Washington D.C. as well as in state capitols around the nation to advocate for tax breaks that benefit their clients. This was clear in the enormous tax cut for C-corporations advanced by Congress just a few years ago. It is also clear in the growth in tax breaks for corporations here in Oregon over the past decades.

The result of this significant imbalance is that large corporations have been able to shift and minimize their taxes while businesses like mine are paying to support our shared public goods. Corporate tax transparency is an important step to peel back the veil of tax secrecy and help all of us understand just how little, or how much, these corporations are paying in Oregon taxes. We know that federally many of them pay close to or below zero – but what about here in Oregon?

To be clear, this legislation would add no burden to my small business. Because this only applies to publicly traded C-corporations, neither I nor other small main street businesses around the state will face any additional cost.

It is time to level the playing field between small businesses like mine and the large corporations taking advantage of our system. It is time for Oregon to enact corporate tax transparency.

I urge you to support SB 312 with the -1 amendment.

Iris Hodge  
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