

the
MAIN STREET
alliance of oregon



a big vision for small business

March 27, 2019

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Re: HB3028: Renew and raise the Oregon EITC

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Noble and Sanchez and members of the Committee,

The Main Street Alliance of Oregon represents over 4,000 main street small businesses in Oregon, from boutique retail shops, general contractors, tech firms to startup micro businesses and makers. Small businesses are engines for our economy and culture. But we don't do it by ourselves. Consumer demand from a thriving middle class is essential to bring customers through the door. Small businesses thrive when our communities thrive. This is why the Main Street Alliance is supporting HB3028 and amendments 1 and 2, to renew and raise Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit, an economy-boosting investment that supports the Main Street customer base and members of the business community itself.

And what creates a customer? Having money in working families' pockets. This year, as Oregon state legislators, you have the opportunity to ensure that 900,000 Oregonians have money in their pockets to spend in their communities by renewing and raising Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). When Oregonians access the EITC and more of it, we see that:

- Working families have more money to cover basics such as groceries, rent, utility bills and car repairs. These dollars are spent in local businesses. Communities in every legislative district across our state benefit.
- Low-income workers will be better able to cover work-related costs such as housing, transportation and childcare, thereby strengthening our workforce.
- Many small business owners themselves who file for taxes as individuals receive the EITC to help support their families, educate themselves and keep their businesses alive and growing.

Main Street Alliance of Oregon asks you to extend and provide a meaningful boost to Oregon's state EITC by passing HB3028. We believe that HB3028 gives hardworking Oregonian families a much needed raise that they deserve. When households are economically stable, our communities have more room to thrive. On behalf of Main Street Alliance I urge you to pass HB3028 to renew and raise Oregon's EITC.

Yours Respectfully,

Iris Hodge
Executive Director
Mainstreet Alliance

