



AOC urges the House Revenue Committee to make full use of its excellent staff and pass a bill to direct recommendations to restructure Oregon's public finance system.

It is becoming clear that any movement toward comprehensive public finance reform needs a new starting point. In very recent history, we have seen the broadly representative and thorough-going Task Force on Comprehensive Revenue Restructuring (Jan. 2009) approve thoughtful recommendations that now gather dust. Former Senator Frank Morse struggled for several sessions to get movement on his sensible plan, but finally retired in frustration.

The Senate amendments to **Senate Bill 925** narrow the bill by laying out the framework of a tax reform package. AOC is grateful that **Senate Bill 925A** specifically addresses badly needed restructuring of the nearly incomprehensible property tax system.

Paul Warner, the Legislative Revenue Officer and former State Economist, has gathered a staff of knowledgeable and talented economists who are clearly able to deliver what the final bill – as A-Engrossed or as amended by the House Revenue Committee – will direct. Recommendations from the Legislative Revenue Office would carry the necessary weight to kick off the discussion again.

The most important point is that our broken public finance system cannot heal itself. **SB 925 is an excellent idea, and should be adopted and pursued.**

June 19, 2015.