



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair  
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
Senator Lynn Findley, Member  
Senator Chuck Riley, Member  
Senator Rob Wagner, Senate Majority Leader

Email: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Committees/SFR/Overview>

Re: [SB 312](#) - Corporate transparency - **Support**

The principles of League of Women Voters of the United States state: "We must promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive." The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation..." One of the League of Women Voters of Oregon's priorities for the 2021 session is to "generate adequate revenue for essential services while promoting equitable and progressive tax policy."

We support SB 312 because it calls for transparency and accountability for some Oregon's tax policies, specifically the corporate excise tax by providing the public and legislators with the information they need to see how companies are using their business tax expenditures in light of the companies' overall tax liabilities.

[SB 312](#) would require the Department of Revenue to prepare an annual public report of all c-corporations earning over a certain amount that pay an Oregon excise tax ranking them according to four categories:

- Oregon sales
- Oregon taxable income
- Total amount of Oregon tax expenditures claimed (tax credits, deductions, or other tax subsidies received) and
- Oregon tax liability.

This would provide lawmakers with the basic information they need to compare tax subsidies in relationship to corporate tax revenue to better assess the adequacy and fairness of Oregon's corporate tax system. Currently excise tax revenue is an aggregated figure and basically a black box. The idea is to have better transparency about business revenue without jeopardizing an individual company's privacy or interfering with its competitiveness or revealing its "trade secrets". This could also provide better accountability to taxpayers to help them evaluate their return on investments in these tax expenditures.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca L. Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Josie Koehne in black ink.

Josie Koehne  
LWVOR Revenue Coordinator