



February 25, 2025

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee Revenue

Re: House Bill 2958 – Strengthen Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit, Support

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Cree Bort, and I’m a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. I have the pleasure of serving as the Advocacy and Policy Organizer for the NAYA Action Fund, a Native-led organization that builds political power and advances advocacy for Native communities in Oregon and Washington. I am writing to share my support for HB 2958, which would strengthen Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a crucial program that provides financial relief to individuals and families who meet income eligibility requirements or have qualifying children. It allows them to receive money back on their yearly taxes. The primary receivers of the EITC are working families with low to moderate incomes. Today, the EITC stands as one of Oregon’s most significant anti-poverty programs. However, it’s at risk of sunset, which would take away a vital resource for many working and low-income families. One of main components of the bill is to prevent this from happening by extending the program’s sunset date.

Beyond just extending the EITC sunset, House Bill 2958 proposes essential improvements to strengthen the program. By more than doubling the match, we can put additional money directly into the pockets of those who need it most. In today’s economy, many working families struggle to make ends meet, often spending their earnings on basic needs and bills. With rising inflation and families feeling the weight of the economy even more, Oregon families could greatly benefit from extra financial support to stay afloat.

A Living Cities study highlights that the EITC is widely utilized in urban areas, where low-income and working families tend to live. Oregon faces a severe affordable housing shortage, and rental costs are skyrocketing nationwide, with nearly 50% of renters classified as rent burdened according to America’s Rental Housing 2024 Report. According to the same report, 48.4% of Oregon renters are considered rent-burdened, while 25.5% are severely rent-burdened. Among these struggling households, American Indian and Alaska Native communities experience disproportionately high rates of hardship related to housing expenses. By maintaining the EITC, Oregon can provide a reliable financial resource that helps low- and-moderate income families stay housed and afford essential expenses.

On behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, we strongly urge you to support House Bill 2958 to ensure that working families across Oregon have the financial stability they deserve.

Thank you,

Cree Bort  
Advocacy and Policy Organizer

