



March 3, 2025
 Senator Mark Meek, Chair
 Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
 Oregon State Legislature
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Support of SB 490

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate contributing to the success of our state government.

Oregon is in competition with forty-nine other states to locate and operate a business. All efforts to make Oregon more competitive will encourage job creation and promote prosperity for our citizenry and state. When taxes and fees are increased, hiring, investment, and business expansion are decreased.

The Corporate Activity Tax ("CAT") applies to the gross revenue before any deductions so the net profit after deductions is not considered. Taxing revenue and not net profit, places Oregon at a disadvantage for business locations and expansion. SB 490 is an effort to make Oregon more competitive. By increasing the Corporate Activity Tax ("CAT") exemption from \$1 million to \$5 million, the additional non-taxed revenue would assist with business profitability and allow for their growth, investment, and increased employment opportunities.

This bill incentivizes businesses to locate, operate, and keep their business in Oregon contributing to state revenue. We urge passage of SB 490 to make Oregon more competitive.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

**Salem Area Chamber
of Commerce**

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Chief Executive Officer

Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce