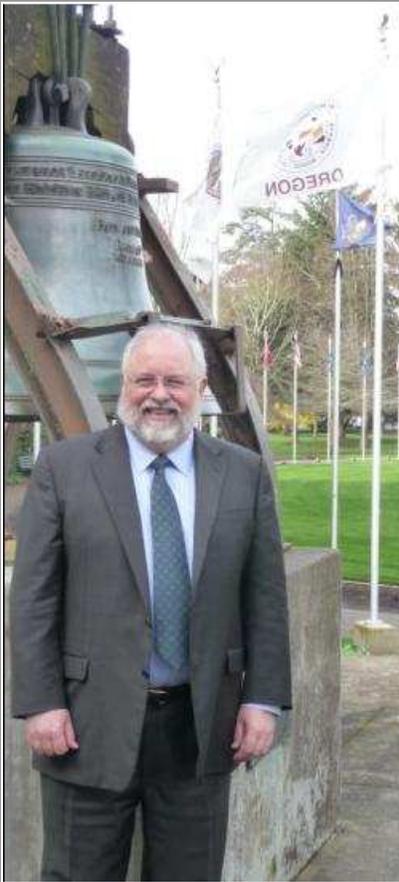




State Representative
Phil Barnhart



*In Front of the
Walk of Flags*

Greetings,

Some of you may remember the Business Resource Summit we organized last summer, in partnership with several local government offices and business organizations. I wanted to remind small business owners of the resources available to help them start, grow or maintain a successful business. Small businesses are vital to revitalize our community as we come out of the recession. Hopefully the following organizations and their web sites can assist you or a friend with any business related questions you may have.

Phil

Small Business Development Center

Business Oregon

Lane Metro Partnership

Smart Ups

**Oregon Advantage
– Open for**

Legislative Report

Jobs and Economic Development

Business

Oregon Advantage, a web-based resource to help new and existing business owners grow their companies and create jobs in Oregon. The new web site provides direct access to financial and development services.

[Check it out here.](#)

Oregon's Credit Rating Improved

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler announced Wednesday that Standard and Poor had upgraded Oregon's credit rating had been to AA+. Read the full story [here](#).

Can you Balance the Oregon Budget?

Try Our Oregon's new Oregon Budget Widget and see if you can fix Oregon's budget crisis. [Click here to begin.](#)

Free Seminars on Worker Classification

Oregon's Interagency

Over the years, the legislature has attempted to support economic development in Oregon by establishing several different dedicated funds. There has been no coordination between these funds and most have been too small to command the kind of oversight they need to become effective.

Last year the Working Families Party approached me about establishing a state bank to promote economic development and support community banks and credit unions to make credit available to family farms and small business. House Bill 3452 establishes this Oregon Finance and Credit Board made up of the Governor, the Treasurer and the Labor Commissioner and charges that Board with funds coordination and local economic support. The board will not be a bank but it will improve the management of those diverse and neglected state investment accounts.

This board will help strengthen our local financial institutions, increase credit for and investment in local small businesses, including family farms, where most new jobs will be developed.

The bill was referred to the Rules committee, of which I am a member. It has the support of the Governor's Office and the State Treasurer. As others become aware of it, we gain more support.

House Bill 3452 is one way we can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government, grow jobs and strengthen the economy. Stay tuned.

Let's be Transparent!

In the last decade Oregon spent hundreds of millions of dollars to promote economic development. Where is the economic development money going? Right now it would be hard for the average Oregonian to find out. House Bill 2825 sponsored by Rep. Thatcher (R – District 25) and myself requires businesses receiving support to disclose facts about the funds used

Compliance Network (ICN) is putting on a series of free seminars to highlight the importance of accurate classifications and clarify who is and is not an independent contractor. [Click here](#) for information on a seminar near you. [More resources here.](#)

Help Define Your District

Redistricting is here. The legislature requests your input as it plans to redefine the House and Senate districts. Join the Redistricting Committees for a public hearing when they visit your area (in Eugene April 16th). For more information on redistricting and a copy of the schedule [click here](#).

Could you serve on a Lane County Committee?

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from citizens interested in serving on the Lane County Mental Health Advisory/Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee. [Click here](#) for more information about the

for economic development on Oregon's Transparency web site for all to see. Companies in the state receive tax credits and property tax abatements in exchange for the promise of job creation or other developments of public value. Oregon is one of the last 13 states to not have this information easily available to the public. Openness promotes understanding and trust in our state government and fosters healthy debate around how we spend taxpayer dollars.



Click on the video to watch Rep. Barnhart's Floor speech

Better Food Locally

The State House of Representatives just passed a critical bill supporting local family farms. Each week I buy local at Farmer's Markets with members of my family. This long-standing tradition has enabled me to see firsthand how these markets facilitate community gathering, provide a bountiful array of tasty healthful fresh food, encourage buying local products and supporting your neighbor. I've been fortunate enough to visit some of the producer's farms and talk with them about the challenges they face when they attempt to sell their products. The major complaints I've heard have been about the complexity of the regulations. House Bill 2336 is a very well thought out bill that seeks to remove unnecessary regulations Oregon Farmers must deal with

committee. To see a list of all the committees looking for members [follow this link](#).

to sell their products in their community. My colleagues from both sides of the aisle and I agreed this bill is important legislation to boost economic prosperity for local farms and ensure the availability of good locally produced food. Buying locally produced food helps our economy!