



David Gomberg—State Representative, House District 10

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Greetings!

This newsletter is about a specific measure I have introduced with Representative Ann Lininger (D-Lake Oswego): House Bill 3332 known as “Shareholders United”, as well as the K-12 budget proposal and some developments in dredging along the coast.

Shareholders United addresses a complex and growing problem -- the rising influence of large corporate political contributions on our democratic process. Current research details that nearly 9 in 10 Americans agree there is way too much corporate money in politics.

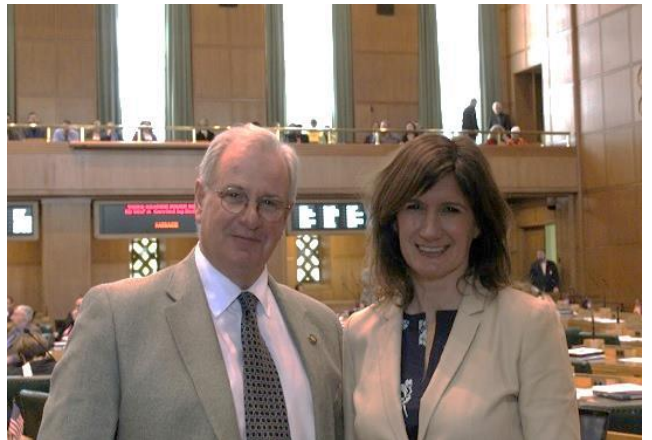
But according to the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United* corporations have the same rights as individuals to speech and therefore to make campaign contributions. Corporations are “people”. But if that is true, then it is certainly also true that corporations are owned by people and that those shareholders should have a greater say in how their money is spent.

My bill will require companies include shareholders in their political contribution decisions. It mandates that businesses must supply their shareholders with a budget of the amount set aside for political contributions. It obligates businesses to report campaigns they intend to contribute to. And lastly, it requires that shareholders be notified when a contribution is made.

Is *Citizens United* a problem in Oregon? When a candidate for Governor receives nearly a hundred thousand dollars from one corporation, there is a problem. When an out-of-state corporation spends over three million dollars on advertising in a US senate race in Oregon, there is a problem. And when a corporation in Missouri spends nearly six million dollars on an Oregon ballot measure, there is a problem. So yes – we have a problem here in Oregon.

In 2014, 73 percent of the money that the two major-party candidates for governor raised came from just 6 percent of their donors. When out of state companies spend millions on campaign advertising, Oregon people – real people – get left behind.

Shareholders United had its first public hearing in the House Committee on Rules. Click the photo of Repetitive Lininger and I to view the committee meeting.



K-12 Budget

I have always advocated funding schools at a level that provides our children with the quality education they need for today's economy. And I speak out frequently about the shortage of teaching days, low graduation rates, crowded classes, and the affect these problems have on our kids and our communities.

Last week, my committee approved a \$7.255 billion school budget -- as a starting point. The larger context is that last session, the legislature increased school funding by \$1 billion – the largest school funding expenditure in the history of Oregon. This year, former Governor Kitzhaber proposed \$6.91 billion, a 4 percent increase. The legislature increased that to \$7.255 billion, a 9 percent increase on the Governor's proposals. This number reflects an average of \$8,500 per student and \$600 million more than last session. So yes, we are committing more money to schools. And no, it still isn't enough to get us where we need to be.

School administrators say the minimum they need to avoid cuts is \$7.5 billion. They would actually like \$7.8 billion.

Nothing would make me happier than allocating \$7.5 billion or more for education. But because of limited revenues, we cannot yet significantly reduce class sizes or add back school days without significant cuts to other important areas of the state budget. The difference between the Governors proposed budget and the version now being approved by the legislature already reflects cuts in programs for public safety, economic development, mental and physical health, colleges, and transportation. We have a limited number of dollars and finding another \$250 million will be difficult.

I understand this conversation is complicated by the implementation of full-day kindergarten statewide and the sad evidence that an increasing number of our younger children are from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds. These students require more intensive and expensive interventions. As a result, a positive increase in per-student funding can still look like a shortfall.

Today I voted "yes" on the initial budget and I will continue to look for more funds as the overall budget evolves.

If the May revenue forecast is up from the March forecast, 40 percent of the new revenue will be provided to education funding. This trigger ensures that the budget will continue to prioritize education if more money becomes available. At the same time, our overall budget is still a work in progress.

Click the image of Representative Peter Buckley, the Co-Chair of the legislature's budget-writing committee, to learn more about the budget, what it pays for, and how we can fight for more funding for our schools.

Moving the K-12 budget in April is a first step, not a final step. We are committed to providing stability to our local school districts as our economy continues to improve, balancing a budget responsibly, and putting the needs of middle class families first.

Dredging Work along the Coast

Federal and State funding last year allowed us to dredge about 255,000 cubic yards from the Depoe Bay Harbor, the Port of Newport, and the Port of Toledo. The funding was sufficient to complete substantial clamshell dredging work in Newport that hadn't been done since the 1980s. In Toledo we were able to finish cleaning up the area adjacent to the boyard after several years of work.



For 2015, Depoe Bay and Toledo didn't receive additional funding for dredging since the work was done last year. They will receive funding in the next five years. However, we have received \$3,252,000 to continue unfinished dredging or maintenance work in Newport.

Meet our Staff: Corey Toney—Intern

Corey spent most of his childhood in Longview, WA. During his years as a teenager he moved to Klamath Falls, OR and later to Los Angeles, CA. He returned to Longview when he was 18 and enlisted in the Army. After attending basic training in FT. Knox, KT he returned to Washington where he spent the next two years in Ft. Lewis. He deployed to Muqdadiyah, Iraq with The 2-3 Infantry Battalion in August 2009 where he served until July 2010. He returned to Ft. Lewis for his remaining year of service, before moving back to Longview to attend Lower Columbia College. After earning his Associates degree he transferred to Portland State University. He has been attending PSU since then and is expected to graduate with his Bachelor of Political Science this spring. He has a passion for government and the rule of law and order. Working in Representative Gomberg's office has "brought me great pleasure. I believe in the value of public service and I am glad to contribute."



I wish you a happy spring and thank you again for being invested in our local political system. If you have any questions or concerns about upcoming bills or anything happening in the Capitol, feel free to contact my office.

Warm wishes,

Rep. David Gomberg