



MARK MEEK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 40

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 21, 2018

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk, Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, Room H-271
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 4301 Vote Explanation

Mr. Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on House Bill 4301.

Small businesses are the backbone of Oregon's economy. Through hard work, vision, and talent, small business owners are growing and creating opportunities in every corner of our state, urban and rural.

This legislation was fundamentally about creating equity within the tax system we currently have. It is important that the smallest of Oregon's small businesses have all of the same benefits available to them.

Our Legislative Revenue Office estimates that 12,000 sole proprietors will be eligible to take advantage of this policy change. These are individuals who contribute to their communities, strengthen our local economies, and help move our state forward to a more prosperous future.

As a small business owner myself, I know the challenges faced by those who strike out on their own. For the sole proprietors, their average income is \$23,300.00 per year, yet we ask them to pay higher taxes than the largest corporations in the state. That is unfair and untenable.

For these reasons, I have chosen to support this legislation. I will keep a close eye on this tax break and ensure it fulfills its intended goals.

Looking ahead to 2019, I believe the legislature needs to begin the work of reforming Oregon's broken revenue system. What is badly needed is a comprehensive strategy on growth, competitiveness, and workforce preparation. I look forward to pushing this agenda so we can support both urban and rural Oregon while continuing to make Oregon an attractive place to do business.

Sincerely,

Mark Meek

State Representative – Oregon House District 40

