



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

June 3, 2013

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Senate promotes use of local goods and services in state contracts

HB 3400A will allow Oregonians to see percentage of "Buy Oregon" agency expenditures

SALEM—The Oregon Senate this morning passed a bill that will help Oregonians find out how much state agencies expend on Oregon-made materials and contracts. House Bill 3400A, which puts 'Buy Oregon' contract information on the state's transparency website, passed on a vote of 25-3 with two excused.

"The State of Oregon purchases a lot of goods and services. We should be able to get a look at how taxpayer money supports Oregon products," said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene). "This bill helps Oregon small businesses by highlighting the state's role in developing and growing our local supply chains, helping to create local jobs and revitalizing our state's economy."

House Bill 3400A builds upon years of work to increase transparency in state contracting. Since 2009, agencies have been able to buy agricultural products produced and transported entirely within Oregon as long as the Oregon product costs no more than 10 percent above the lowest bid. Additional preferences for Oregon goods and services were authorized by the legislature in 2011. HB 3400A will help the public track the implementation of these "Buy Oregon" incentives.

"We can support Oregon's workers and businesses by promoting use of local goods and services. That's what 'Buy Oregon' is all about," said Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford). "With this bill, we can measure the amount of taxpayer money being directed back into our state's economy by making information about these contracts transparent and easy to look up."

Specifically, HB 3400A requires state agencies to publish percentages of in-state and out-of-state contract expenditures on the Oregon Transparency website.

The bill now goes to Governor John A. Kitzhaber for his approval.

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