

State Representative
Kim Thatcher
House District 25

State Senator
Larry George
Senate District 13



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CONTACT: Dawn Phillips
503.750.1764

Yamhill County Legislators Join Forces to Help Newberg Property Owner With New State Law

(Salem) “[Senate Bill 505](#) is about doing the right thing for taxpayers when a government agency makes a mistake,” said [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul) after she carried the bill on the House Floor today. The measure was unanimously adopted and now moves to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

Thatcher and [State Senator Larry George](#) (R-Sherwood) joined forces to draft legislation this session to help a constituent, Mary Holton Meyers, of Newberg. Meyers is owed several thousand dollars by Yamhill County after an error was made during a land use process which changed the property tax assessment on the 17 acre farmland her family has owned for over 40 years. “This has been a six year process, so it’s not for the faint of heart,” said Meyers. “However, I learned one person can be heard when mistakes are made by government and one person can make a difference.”

“Mary did her best to work with county officials who were willing to refund taxes she overpaid, but we needed to make a change in state law first,” explained Senator George. “SB 505 is a common sense fix to allow the county to return the funds, just like they do when other types of mistakes are made in taxation decisions.” SB 505 passed the Senate in early April.

“I’m so grateful to have been helped by public servants who genuinely wanted to correct the error that was made in my family’s case,” added Meyers. “I would hope that others who might find themselves caught in a similar situation would receive the level of assistance I have. Yamhill County is very fortunate to have legislators like Kim Thatcher and Larry George and public servants like former County Commissioner Leslie Lewis and many others.”

Thatcher and George worked with the Oregon Department of Revenue in developing the legislation and the [Yamhill County Board of Commissioners](#) supported the measure.

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Representative Kim Thatcher 503.986.1425
www.leg.state.or.us/thatcher Rep.kimthatcher@state.or.us

Senator Larry George 503.986.1713
www.leg.state.or.us/george Sen.larrygeorge@state.or.us