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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Transparency Website Improvements Adopted by House

SALEM – Another in a series of bi-partisan bills to improve the [Oregon Transparency Website](#) was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives today. [House Bill 2370](#) enhances the website in a number of ways to help Oregonians get better information about state spending and revenue.

Co-Chief Sponsors on the measure include State Representatives [Phil Barnhart](#) (D-Central Lane and Linn counties), [John Lively](#) (D-Springfield), [Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul), and State Senators [Arnie Roblan](#) (D-Coos Bay), and [Doug Whitsett](#) (R-Klamath Falls).

“As part of the larger debate about state taxes and spending, Oregon [taxpayers deserve to know](#) where their dollars are going,” said Representative Thatcher. HB 2370 adds more information about economic development tax incentives provided by state government, including details about Enterprise Zones.

“Government works best when it is open and transparent to the people. HB 2370 will help by posting more of what we do on the state website,” explained Representative Barnhart. The bill includes additional links to minutes of meetings, administrative rules, and contracts issued by various state agencies, boards and commissions. There will also be space for local governments to link to their own budget transparency websites.

“The public has every right to be informed about the business of their government,” added Representative Lively. “Having immediate access to public records is critical to understanding and providing feedback on key issues. I am glad we are continuing to build on work from previous sessions to add public records through the transparency website.”

Senator Roblan said, “I’m pleased that we have once again been able to work with our partners at the Department of Administrative Services to implement these improvements to the Transparency Website at very little cost to state government.” “As a member of the legislative budget committee I believe it’s important for taxpayers to be able to follow the money we spend on various programs,” said Senator Whitsett.

“When public subsidies are given to private companies to advance goals related to economic growth, the public should see a timely and full accounting of the results of its investment,” said Celeste Meiffren [Oregon State Public Interest Research Group’s \(OSPIRG\)](#) Consumer and Taxpayer Advocate. “House Bill 2370 advances this goal.” Before the Transparency Website was [created by the legislature in 2009](#), the US and Oregon Public Interest Research Groups started doing an [annual survey on state transparency website efforts](#). Oregon got a “D” grade. This year’s report gave Oregon a “B-Plus+”.

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