

**Senator Kim Thatcher
Senator Arnie Roblan
Representative Duane Stark
Representative Gene Whisnant**



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Oregon House Unanimously Passes Senate Bill 515 Expanding The Government Transparency Website

Salem, OR - Today, the Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 515. The bill requires information relating to state economic development programs be posted on the Oregon transparency website along with annual reports regarding certain tax expenditures. The bill will also provide a method for users to offer suggestions to improve the website.

"I am very proud of the passage of SB 515. My colleagues and I put in a lot of work to pass this essential improvement to the Oregon transparency website," said Senator Kim Thatcher. "It's exciting to see the positive development of the state's transparency website."

"In 2009, a bi-partisan group of legislators started the process of making state government more accessible and transparent through our work on developing the Oregon transparency website," said Senator Arnie Roblan. "SB 515 extends that process by improving on those efforts so every Oregonian can review annual reports of any economic development information and qualified research tax credits programs."

"When we are facing significant cuts in certain areas of the state budget it's important for us to talk about how we can better prioritize spending," said Representative Duane Stark, a member of the legislature's Human Services budget committee. "Senate Bill 515 will help us evaluate and prioritize the millions of dollars in economic development subsidies and tax breaks we give."

"Oregon's Transparency Website is rated 3rd best in the Nation and is funded only by existing funds," said Representative Gene Whisnant. "SB 515 will make our website even better and hopefully number one in the US."

SB 515 is was sponsored by Senator Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer), Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), Senator Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), Representative Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene), Representative Duane Stark (R-Grants Pass), Representative Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver), and Representative Mike Nearman (R-Dallas).