

Lawmakers urged to pass "preferential purchasing" bill

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Bipartisan sponsored HB 3301 may direct more tax dollars to Oregon businesses SALEM—State Representative Brian Clem (D-Salem) urged Oregon lawmakers today to prioritize investment in local and Oregon-based businesses. Oregon business may get a boon with the help of House Bill 3301—dubbed "preferential purchasing"—which would give Oregon companies priority in all state agency contracts, ensuring that money spent by the state government boosts our local economy. "When I think of how to best grow Oregon's economy, I think first about how to keep our jobs and our tax dollars in-state and contributing to economic growth," said Clem (D-Salem). This bill would accomplish both. The bipartisan bill sponsored by Representatives Clem (D-Salem), Edwards (D-Hillsboro), Esquivel (R-Medford) and Girod (R-Lyons) had its first public hearing today before the House Committee on Business and Labor. The proposal is supported by local small businesses and by larger labor groups such as the AFL-CIO and SEIU. "I decided to run for office to ensure that Oregon's citizens, workers, farmers and small businesses are considered first in the legislative process, not powerful lobbyists and special interest groups with deep pockets, or big out-of-state contractors," said Clem. "At a time when our state needs to experience a reinvestment in our Oregon-based businesses, our government has no business outsourcing tax dollars and Oregon jobs." The preferential purchasing bill is one component of Clem's "Oregon First" agenda, which also includes proposals to ban any state contractor from performing their Oregon taxpayer funded services outside of the United States and one to connect Oregon schools with Oregon farmers, giving local schools the opportunity to buy food from local growers.

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