

## **Support SB 1524A**

### **Gain Share is an essential tool for immediate economic recovery in urban and rural Oregon**

Oregonians on both sides of the Cascades – and both sides of the political aisle – stand to benefit from SB 1524A, which would reauthorize a little-known but highly impactful statewide program called Gain Share.

Gain Share directs a portion of the state income tax revenue back to cities and counties from jobs created through one of our state's strongest economic development tools: the Strategic Investment Program (SIP). SIP permits local governments to invest in quality, family-wage jobs by bringing traded-sector employers to their communities through offering limited tax exemptions for their new construction.

A portion of the income tax revenue generated by these new jobs is then returned to local jurisdictions – through the Gain Share program – to support necessary up-front investments that attract major employers to Oregon. In short, the Gain Share program is an essential component of the SIP, and vice versa.

In 2015, Gain Share was reauthorized by a wide, bipartisan margin and carefully modified by a diverse coalition of interests to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds across the state to support our schools, local infrastructure, and other shared priorities.

This program ensures Oregon remains a great place to work, but also to live and play. In urban communities, Gain Share funds support road safety improvements, affordable housing developments, addressing poverty levels and bolstering tourism and recreation efforts.

In rural parts of the state, Gain Share supports utilization of our unique geographic characteristics to attract investments in green energy and manufacturing projects. Reauthorization this year should be a no-brainer; local governments need certainty that they will have the resources to take advantage of all available economic opportunities and continue to serve their community. It is a small but important step we can take right now to help Oregon remain competitive.

Fortunately, a diverse coalition of local governments, school boards, economic development groups, and Republican and Democratic legislators are joining together to support SB 1524A, which would reauthorize the program for another six years.

If the Gain Share program is not reauthorized, local governments won't have the certainty they need to stay on track for a strong economic rebound post-COVID. Our cities and counties need every resource they can get as we work together to focus on a long-term, equitable economic recovery. The bill can provide certainty in very uncertain times.

Additionally, the ability to utilize state dollars will allow local governments to best leverage federal funding from the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – another bipartisan piece of legislation that will advance shared priorities in our communities.

When it comes to a proven program that clearly supports common ground issues like education, infrastructure, and renewable energy, we urge our leaders in the Legislature – and in governments throughout Oregon – to support this essential bill.

Oregonians on both sides of the Cascades are counting on us. **Please vote in favor of SB 1524A.**



Senator Bill Hansell  
SD 29-Athena



Senator Janeen Sollman  
SD 15-Western Washington County