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Arnie Roblan  
House District 9

State  
Representative  
Jefferson Smith  
House District 47

State  
Representative  
Kim Thatcher  
House District 25

State  
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Gene Whisnant  
House District 53



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## New Website for State Budget Transparency Gets Final Legislative Approval

(Salem) Oregonians will soon have a new website to track state spending and revenue under a measure which received final approval in the state legislature this morning. [House Bill 2500](#) is the work of a bi-partisan group of lawmakers including State Representatives Arnie Roblan, Jefferson Smith, Kim Thatcher, and Gene Whisnant. The measure passed unanimously in the Senate on Saturday and was adopted unanimously by the House today. HB 2500 now moves to the Governor's Desk.

"This bill is our legislative effort to bring transparency to your state government," said [State Representative Arnie Roblan](#) (D-Coos Bay). "It is very gratifying to create an online website that brings more information to Oregonians at a time when such information is critical. I'm happy to be part of moving Oregon closer to the principles of open government."

"This is the best budget bill we've passed all year!" exclaimed [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul). "We were able to use existing staff and resources to build the new site and will soon be able to show Oregonians where their tax dollars are allocated."

[State Representative Jefferson Smith](#) (D-Portland) pointed out, "in a session where we have worked hard to balance a historically challenging budget, it makes even more sense also to take landmark steps to provide more information about that budget."

"I might be biased but this is the best accountability bill we have passed for Oregon citizens in all my sessions in the legislature," stated [State Representative Gene Whisnant](#) (R-Sunriver). "I am proud to be a Chief Sponsor of this important bill."

The initial website will contain basic information about agency spending and revenue with links to audit and program information. The website should be up by the end of the year. A special committee will work in the years ahead on making the website searchable and connecting expenditures to services and outcomes, as well as other features.

"HB 2500 launches Oregon into Google Government, and making taxpayer spending truly transparent to Oregonians," said Dave Rosenfeld, OSPIRG Executive Director. Nearly two dozen other states have similar websites.

"I'm delighted the Legislature, on a bi-partisan basis, approved HB 2500," said Steve Buckstein, Cascade Policy Institute Senior Analyst and founder. "Government transparency is important at any time, but it's especially important in this tough economic climate. Oregonians deserve to know how state government is spending our hard-earned tax dollars, and now that will be easier than ever."

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