

Business Matters *Sponsored By Zolezzi Insurance Agency* *A Better Brand of Insurance Service*

Reports Highlight the Damage to the Economy if Congress lets Section 199A of the Tax Code Lapse

Two reports issued in September, one with state-specific data, highlight the economic damage that will ensue if Congress lets the 20% Small Business Deduction expire next year.

"Both reports should eliminate whatever lingering doubts Congress has about the paramount importance of making the 20% Small Business Deduction permanent and not letting it lapse at the end of 2025," said Anthony Smith, Oregon state director for NFIB, which last Thursday released its 2024 NFIB Tax Survey and another report in conjunction with EY (Ernst & Young).

"The EY report had some Oregon-

specific numbers on the jobs and GDP to be gained by making the 20% Small Business Deduction permanent," said Smith, "and our report detailed some of the steps small business owners will take if it is allowed to expire."

According to EY, "The tax change is estimated to increase US job equivalents at small businesses by approximately 1.2 million jobs, on average, in each of the first ten years and growing over time to 2.4 million each year after that." On the gross domestic product, "permanently extending the Section 199A deduction is estimated to increase US GDP at small business by \$75 billion annually, over the

first 10 years; and growing over time to \$150 billion annually each year thereafter."

The Oregon share of those two calculations (Page 7, Page 9) are 18,000 jobs \$986 million each year for the first 10 years and 35,000 jobs \$2 billion each year after 2035.

NFIB's Tax Survey found that should Small Business Deduction expire, 61% plan to raise prices, 44% will postpone or cancel capital investments, 36% will postpone or cancel hiring additional employees, 16% will freeze wages or reduce employee benefits, 10% will become more productive, more efficient, and the remaining would take a variety of other

actions. (Page 7)

Jeff Brabant, NFIB's vice president of Federal Government Relations, previously testified before the Senate Committee on Finance, chaired by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, and concluded his remarks with, "Members of Congress should ask themselves if they really believe it when they say, 'small businesses are the backbone of America.' If they truly believe that statement and value small businesses in their communities, then making the 20% small business deduction permanent should be an easy decision."

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Sutherlin's Ford Pond Community Park

acres as a community park allowed for the rest to remain an open space park. Listening to the public's needs and ideas led to the best result, a great park for everyone. Collaborating with community members on the birding plaza and interpretive panels introduced us to some very talented and generous people. Working with a USFWS grant and partnering with the Sutherlin FFA Chapter students to restore 50 acres of oak savanna has been such a rewarding experience. At the end of the day, the volunteers and the community are the reason we now have Ford's Pond Community Park." Beth Houseman, Friends of Ford's Pond

Prior to the official release, Brandi Medeiros, Community Development Assistant for the City of Sutherlin, provided insight into the myriad of projects completed throughout the summer of 2024. A list of recent work includes, the play safety surfacing installation, the paving of the .9 mile section of the ADA accessible path, the installation of the boardwalk through wetland mitigation areas has been completed, the ping pong table, by Stone Age Concrete Table Tennis, has been installed, the lawn section has been freshly seeded. The benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles have also been put into place. The RV parking area is paved and striped.

All awaited the announcement from the city that the park was open for hiking, fishing, kayaking, bird watching, walking along the path, the all inclusive playground with swings, slides, merry-go-round, musical instruments and picnics with a view of the pond. This one-of-a-kind, 202 acre park is equipped with a completely paved, 1.7 mile path that encircles Ford's Pond. Interpretive panels highlight what you see as you walk through this nature reserve. The brand new, all inclusive playground welcomes children of all ages to come play, explore, and enjoy this beautiful area. It is fully equipped with natural features, covered pavilions, picnic tables, benches, restroom facilities, and the proudly featured, concrete, ping pong table. Whatever your preference is, this special place is the 'Jewel in the Crown' for Sutherlin, Oregon.

As the ceremony progressed, those who were instrumental and invaluable in bringing the project to fruition were acknowledged. Many words of thanks were given to the city staff, volunteers, funding agencies, vendors, contractors and community members. All of whom, with their dedication and countless hours of hard work, brought the vision of the park into a reality for the community.

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Solar Energy System for Drain Civic Center

a prolonged period of time. When installing a backup diesel generator, it's important to either install the unit outside away from the facility within a weatherproof or sound-attenuated enclosure or if installing indoors, then properly set up a designated generator room that is equipped with a sufficient exhaust system that can safely funnel emissions outside without exposing employees and other tenants within the building to these harmful emissions.

Industrial generators produce noise and lots of it. Diesel generators tend to be extra loud. While this may not be a concern if a diesel generator is installed outside in a spacious suburban or rural location, it could definitely pose a problem in an urban location. Diesel generators especially can produce extremely loud noise levels at high decibels that can cause headaches or even damage human eardrums when exposed to it. While installing a sound-attenuated enclosure may help reduce the overall noise, it may still be loud enough to bother those around you. If a diesel generator is installed in a designated generator room, it's important to pick a location that prevents the noise and vibrations produced by the generator from negatively affecting your employees and tenants within the facility. Pollution – The emission of air pollutants like carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide is high in diesel-run generators.

High installation cost- Even if the fuel prices were low, the installation costs for diesel generators would be high as it requires high skill and knowledge of all components. Fuel or oil spills around the generator, leakages from the unit's fuel system and fuel supply lines, and presence of combustible materials around the generator will pose a risk of an explosion.

Simply said, we will pay a lot more for that solar panel type replacement system but you can use it a lot more of the time than a generator might be able to serv. A generator just for emergencies needs to be run periodically to keep it in good order. For day to day use it must have a fuel delivery system that can be relied upon, with its costs. It has parts that wear out faster than a good battery and solar system is likely too. That precludes using lead acid batteries, as was the usual in the past for off grid solar electric systems. LiFePO batteries are much better today, capable of many thousands of full charge/discharge cycles.

The conversation should be continued. There is every reason for the City of Drain to revisit this issue and if need be, more citizens need to become familiar with the options and learn how this type of progressive city and city management can bring opportunity, progress, citizen amenities and overall betterment for the residents and citizens of the Drain area.