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Revenue Seeks Business Input on Tax Simplification

OLYMPIA – Jan. 27, 2011 – Have an idea on how Washington can simplify its tax system to help small businesses? If so, the Department of Revenue would like to hear from you through an online survey at <http://dor.wa.gov/TaxSimplification>.

The Department is soliciting tax simplification ideas in response to a directive from Governor Chris Gregoire.

The Department is in the process of scheduling meetings with stakeholders to gather information on the burdens and costs of complying with the tax system. The online survey is intended to supplement that process and ensure that ideas and feedback are received from as broad a segment of the small business community as possible.

Revenue Director Suzan DelBene said the goal is to lay a strong foundation for the private sector to grow and create family-wage jobs.

“Simplifying the tax code and reducing administrative burdens will save small businesses time and money and let owners and employees focus less on paperwork and more on their core business in this tough economy,” she said. “This will help small businesses in all of our communities to thrive and improve our entire state’s competitiveness.”

She noted that Washington’s tax system is relatively unique and can be complicated, with both state and local gross receipts taxes and sales taxes that vary by location.

The Department plans to present its findings and recommendations to the Governor by June 30.

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