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## ***BOMA's Legislative Program Has Meant Big Bucks to the Commercial Real Estate Industry***

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BOMA Portland has dedicated financial resources to retain a full-time governmental affairs professional to serve as an advocate for the industry at the State Capital. And, BOMA's staff works hand-in-hand with state agencies to implement laws, codes and regulations. BOMA staff and volunteers serve on a multitude of committees, task forces and advisory boards at the state and local government levels.

Through a strong membership base, extensive programs, advocacy and professional government affairs services, BOMA has helped the commercial real estate industry save money with regard to real estate laws, building codes, energy/utility costs, environmental and consumer protection, energy conservation, taxes and fees, transportation and economic growth.

The value in terms of dollars is hard to equate because each commercial property, owner, manager and developer is impacted differently by various policies and laws but the advocacy role of BOMA has clearly provided a tremendous value to the commercial real estate industry.

This information was prepared by BOMA's Government Affairs Advocates Bill Cross and Niki Terzieff.

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### **Spend It or Lose It**

It's that time of year to be thinking about income taxes! With that in mind, please consider the tax credit you will receive from the State of Oregon for a contribution to BOMAPAC.

Oregon income tax credits are available to individuals and couples who have contributed up to \$50 (individual) and \$100 (couple) to political candidates, initiatives and political action committees in Oregon. **That means that as an individual, you can spend up to \$50 of the money you owe in Oregon taxes for a political action committee (PAC) of your choice. Or, if filing as a couple, you can spend up to \$100 of the money you owe in Oregon taxes to the PAC of your choice.** However, this credit is only available to individuals with adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less and for joint filers \$200,000 or less.

*Spend it or  
lose it...it's  
your  
money.*

For example, if you file jointly, make a contribution to a PAC of \$100, and owe Oregon income taxes of \$1,000; you're actual tax obligation will be \$900. It also means that if you file jointly, make a contribution of \$100, and already have an Oregon income tax refund of \$1,000; you will now receive a net refund of \$1,100.

**With the tax credit, you will get the full amount (up to the limits) back as either a reduction in your taxes or an additional refund. So if you don't spend it by December 31, 2014, you will lose the credit and the government will get that money to spend.**

