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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Seattle Lawmaker to be honored by the Washington Coalition for Open Government

Seattle---The Washington Coalition for Open Government will honor State Representative Reuven Carlyle (D-Seattle) with the Ballard/Thompson Award during the coalition's annual Open Government Conference next month. The Award, named in honor of former Speaker of the House Clyde Ballard and former Chief Clerk of the House, Representative, and Senator, Alan Thompson, is presented to a member or members of the legislature who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the cause of open government during the previous legislative session. In this case, however, Carlyle is being recognized for his work on tax transparency over several legislative sessions.

Representative Carlyle was successful in amending state law to ensure the amount and extent of tax breaks given to large corporations be made public within two years. In a November 29th article in The Seattle Times, Jim Brunner writes the provision championed by Carlyle resulted in the disclosure that Boeing received a \$20 million tax break.

"Previously, taxpayer confidentiality laws have, with few exceptions, shielded disclosure of tax-break benefits enjoyed by individual companies. Instead, such information has been largely limited to estimates of how the tax breaks apply to broad industry sectors. Under the transparency law for new tax breaks, company-specific disclosure will be the rule instead of the exception."

Reuven Carlyle was first elected to the Washington House of Representatives in 2008 and serves on the House Finance committee where he has made tax policy and transparency a priority. WCOG President Toby Nixon will present the Ballard Thompson Award to Representative Carlyle at "Secret No More," WCOG's annual Open Government Conference at Pacific Tower on Saturday, January 23rd. The conference will feature panel discussions on transparency and open government and a keynote address from National Security Archives Executive Director, Tom Blanton. For more information, go to www.washingtoncog.org/Events .

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