

John A. Calder
PO Box 586
Jefferson, OR 97352

March 29, 2011

State of Oregon
House Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 973

Re: ~~HB 2110~~, 2231, 2385, 2533

I am against these bills

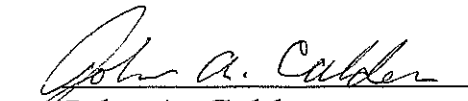
I am nearly 70 years of age and I have been using Tobacco products for 57 years. I have no health problems related to Tobacco use or otherwise.

Not to minimize the health affects of tobacco use, back in the 1880' Cigarettes were dubbed the nickname Coffin Nail. We have learned continually more since that time. Reading other statistics on health affects two 20oz sweetened drinks and a burger per day has the same health affects as one pack of Cigarettes per day. The main difference here is that the State promotes Sweetened drinks to the poor through the Food Stamp Program, Costing the State and taxpayers millions each year.

This year three (3) States have proposed legislative cuts in tobacco taxes, Purpose of this is to cut down on illegal activity and bring back sales to the States Retailers and ultimately more revenue to the State. "The big thing now is Tobacco Products coming in from Military Bases."

Approximately eight (8) years ago the State raised the Cigarette Taxes equivalently to what is proposed again now. The outcome had catastrophic affects on law enforcement, State Revenue, and the Retail Community. As for me being in the Tobacco retail business for 14 years at that time, my revenue declined by 75 per cent. I had to close one store and layoff six (6) employees, altimetry I lost over one hundred thousand dollars and had to file chapter 7 bankruptcy on another two hundred and four thousand dollars. No one came out ahead and we do not need that again especially in today's economic climate.

Respectfully yours,


John A. Calder