

HOUSE BILL 2566 (-5 AMENDMENTS)

*Comments by Gil Riddell, Policy Coordinator, Association of Oregon Counties,
before the House Revenue Committee, June 15, 2011.*

The Association of Oregon Counties **supports** the dash-5 amendments to House Bill 2566.

Counties have developed good relationships with tribal governments and mutual government-to-government respect. We seek to continue, and improve on, these relationships.

AOC has a principle of opposition to new property tax exemptions, unless they are funded or required by pressing economic conditions. Property taxes still are the foundation of revenues that counties need to provide public services to all communities within the county.

Nevertheless, AOC can agree to new property tax exemption authority for a tribal government in its acquisition of property exclusively for direct services, of a type customarily provided by counties, for care of the tribal community. AOC does this out of respect for and partnership with the tribes, out of recognition of a fellow government, and to further good faith efforts to improve the vitality of all communities within our counties.

Notes for the record:

- This exemption authority applies to property exclusively owned by the federally recognized tribe or an entity wholly owned by that tribe, and that is used exclusively for the essential government services defined in the new subsection (4) of ORS 307.181.
- As with county government, a profit-making enterprise does not qualify for the exemption (e.g., for-profit café operating in a tribal government building).
- As with county government, if the government service is provided under agreement by a for-profit entity, that provider is taxable (e.g., for-profit cable company providing broadband service).
- As to the exemption for low-income housing, the tribal government must follow the same statutory requirements as a city or county.
- Regarding the exemption for archaeological protection or ceremonial cultural sites, there must be official documentation that the land is acquired and being used specifically for that purpose. This clarity will permit the county assessor to appropriately and efficiently apply the property tax exemption.

Please insert the dash-5 amendments to HB 2566 and pass the bill.

MEASURE: HB 2566-5
EXHIBIT: E
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 6/15/11 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: GIL RIDDLE