

LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON
State Senator



MEASURE: SB 692
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STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 692
April 15, 2011

Good afternoon chair and members of the committee. I am State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and represent Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, and Wood Village.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 692, a bill to lift the preemption on local tobacco taxes. I introduced a similar bill last session and I urge you to move this forward.

My county and counties across Oregon are struggling to fund basic services. As a state lawmaker, I know how much responsibility we put on counties to provide services as varied as maintaining roads and bridges to libraries to running local jails. I also know that counties have very few tools at their disposal to address their budget shortfalls.

I am worried that things for our local partners are going to get much worse as state budget cuts start moving forward. That is why I am supporting this bill.

I also support SB 692 because, as a former public health nurse, I've seen the toll tobacco takes on peoples' health and on the state in terms of increased health care costs. Increased tobacco taxes will lead to reduced tobacco use.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

