

From the desk of:  
Brian Clem

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2870A

Dear Representatives:

We urge your support for HB 2870A. This bill will lift the local tax preemption on cigarettes and other tobacco products for counties. Every county is responsible for public health and mental health and this bill gives counties another tool for raising revenue at the local level to fund critical programs. Every one of Oregon's 36 counties is facing huge fiscal challenges and this bill gives counties one more local option for addressing those challenges.

If counties do choose to increase the tobacco tax, they are required to invest at least 40 percent in public health programs and services for tobacco prevention and cessation and for mental health and addiction services.

Passage of this bill and implementation by county governments will also have an important impact on youth smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to deter youth smoking is to increase the price of cigarettes and tobacco products. In addition to deterring more children and teens from starting to smoke, raising the price also reduces smoking rates in general.

We urge your support of HB 2870A.

Sincerely,

Association of Oregon Counties

Benton County

Clatsop County

Columbia County

Deschutes County

Hood River County

Josephine County

Lane County

Lincoln County

Multnomah County

Tillamook County

Washington County

City of Portland

Oregon Nurses Association

Oregon Medical Association

Oregon Pediatric Society

Oregon Primary Care Association

Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Tobacco Free Coalition of Oregon  
American Heart Association  
Oregon Latino Health Coalition  
Health Share of Oregon  
La Amistad Store  
El Compadre Store  
Mary's Tienda Mexicana Store  
African Man Market and Deli  
Selam Market  
Merkato Ethiopian Store  
Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)