

February 24, 2016

To: House Committee on Revenue

From: Donna L Cohen, MEd, MLIS

Subject: HB 1565

I have been concerned for quite awhile at the excessive tax breaks that businesses receive in Oregon. Serious consideration of this practice has lead me to understand that the goal of improved economic development is often an illusion, as the expected improvements [e.g. more hires, ultimately more tax revenue] often do not materialize.

Further, there is a strong case to be made that businesses are attracted to a location/state far more if there is a strong infrastructure and a well-educated workforce. Thus, we bleed off money that could go to education in order to support business tax breaks and in so doing, cheat citizens of Oregon of both a better education and the increased economic development which high-quality education contributes to.

Please do not approve this bill.

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